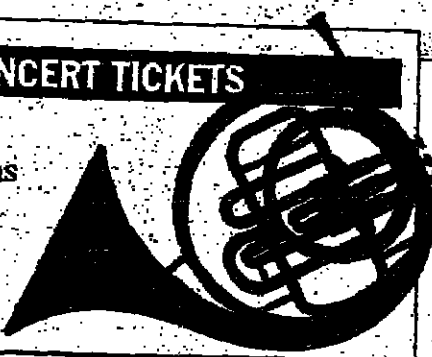


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PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

The top 250 team managers
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Thatcher comes to the defence of ministers: 'Our guidelines on arms were not changed'

Mayhew tries to reassure the Unionists

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Government acted to head off a Commons defeat on the Scott report last night by offering key assurances to the nine Ulster Unionists about the elections to be held in Northern Ireland ahead of all-party talks.

As Baroness Thatcher went to the aid of the Prime Minister in the Lords, Sir Patrick Mayhew was desperately trying to allay official Unionist fears that the Government had done a secret deal with the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists.

Their decision to abstain rather than vote against the Government led to suspicions among David Trimble's party that ministers were coming down in favour of the province-wide elections sought by Mr Paisley, and John Hume, the SDLP leader. In that case, people would vote for a party, rather than an individual, but the official Unionists want the elections to take place in 18 five-member constituencies.

The Northern Ireland Secretary made plain yesterday, however, that the Government would not impose a system on the parties, but would leave it to them to decide. Sir Patrick wrote to the Unionists shortly before they met at the Commons to decide how to vote tonight, assuring them that the Government had not plumped for either option; nor was it backing Mr Hume's proposal for a referendum north and south of the Irish border.

Downing Street also intervened to say that John Major had not been trying to send a signal either way when he discussed the elections plan, and the Prime Minister later repeated the assurances in a meeting with Mr Trimble while the debate was proceeding. Officials declined to say how long the conversation had lasted, saying only: "The war Minister did bump into Pat Trimble in the House."

The last-minute manoeuvring came as Lady Thatcher swung behind Mr Major to reject a central Scott finding that Whitehall guidelines on defence exports to Iraq were changed when she was Prime Minister in the late 1980s. She delivered a passionate defence of William Waldegrave, whose resignation is being demanded for allegedly misleading Parliament while a Foreign Office minister.

In her first remarks since the report was published eleven days ago, Lady Thatcher told the Lords that she approved the original guidelines in 1984 and no proposal to amend them was put to her until 1990. In the event, no change was made because the Gulf War intervened.

"If there was no change in the guidelines — and there

the Board of Trade nevertheless admitted: "Mistakes were made. There are lessons to be learnt." And he tried to mollify potential Tory rebels with moves to improve ministerial accountability, including:

□ A review of ministerial openness in dealing with parliamentary inquiries about arms sales;

□ Greater supervision by the Attorney-General's office of Customs and Excise prosecutions;

□ Improvements in the distribution of intelligence material between government departments;

□ A possible re-appraisal of the use of Public Interest Immunity (PII) certificates — the so-called "gagging orders" at the centre of the Matrix Churchill trial, which led to the Scott inquiry being set up.

But in one of the most acclaimed Commons speeches for some time, Robin Cook

made a withering attack on the Government's handling of the affair. "This is not just a Government which does not know how to accept blame. It is a Government that knows no shame," he declared.

And he urged Tory MPs to vote against the Government, saying: "They should not look at tonight's vote as to whether or not it is a defeat for the Government. They should look on it as a vote which will decide of the democracy in which we live."

The Shadow Foreign Secretary went on to say that if Tories did vote against the Government: "Then they will demonstrate that it is not just the two ministers criticised in the Scott Report who should leave office. They will convince the public outside that this is an arrogant Government that has been in power too long to remember that it is accountable to the people, and the time has come when the people must turn them all out of office."



Lady Thatcher setting out for the Lords, where she told peers that Sir Richard Scott was wrong to say that guidelines on exports to Iraq changed in 1988

'Like a rotten mackerel by moonlight this whole Scott debate shone and stank'

BY MATTHEW PARKES

"YOU'D look very pretty as a French maid. I wish I had your curls!" William Waldegrave, who had just entered the chamber, may not have realised that Madam Speaker was in fact addressing his colleague, Jerry Hayes (C, Harlow), whom Labour's Ann Clwyd had just accused of wearing fancy dress on TV, after he had accused her of missing freestop Commons mail. A small, silly scrap. The big, silly scrap was still to come.

While we waited, Peter Mandelson stood behind the Speaker's chair. Tony Blair's spin doctor supremo, widely believed by Tories to possess the powers of a serpent king, was visible to the Press Gallery, but not in the chamber. In his left hand he seemed to be gripping something green. I looked more closely. It was a small apple. As a symbol for all that is slippery, persuasive and sly, this small green apple

served as a metaphor for the opening speeches that followed.

Everyone was there: the whole of the Opposition front bench, backbenches packed behind them; almost all the Government; and most of the Ulstermen, looking inscrutable.

Opposite Tony Blair, John Major sat impassively throughout. The Prime Minister was on the cliff's edge, but then the cliff's edge is Mr Major's natural habitat.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, who opened for the Government, and Robin Cook, Labour's chief foreign affairs spokesman, replying for Labour, adopted contrasting tactics.

Lang spoke fast and gave the impression that nothing mattered much. Cook spoke slowly, giving the impression that everything mattered a great deal. The Tories will claim a strong performance from Lang. The Press will report a smashing victory for

COMMONS SKETCH

Cook. Your sketchwriter found both disturbingly unconvincing.

Lang made the best of an impossible job. Mr Lang is the political equivalent of the aerodynamic saloon car of the 90s, or the sucked lounge. He is smooth all over. There are no sharp or rough bits, nor anything which might resist airflow, or detain the tongue. His approach was "safety first".

To a House, a Press Gallery, and probably a nation already bored with the detail of Scott and interested only in the possibility of sin, disgrace and resignation, a speech which flatly ignored allegations of personal failure and concentrated instead on a score of modest procedural reforms, could invite only yawns and derision.

So Lang gabbed it at break-neck pace, while Dennis Skinner (for the first time in my recollection) assisted his Chief Whip, Donald Dewar, in discouraging heckling Labour yobs from making idiots of themselves on television.

Lang achieved a passable peroration, if only by dint of going back to the 1960s and Labour's record in arming Argentina. The Falklands campaign is now the last refuge of a cornered Tory.

He was followed by Robin Cook. Only David Mellor (interrupting) succeeded in tripping Mr Cook, and then only momentarily. Cook's was a brilliant, sparkling speech.

but almost ostentatiously slippery.

In a media mood of Cookophilia this sketch risks with hesitation, but risks, the thought that, even as they cheered, few missed the dishonesties in his argument. A very slight mental reservation about Mr Cook will persist long after the extraordinary, Alice-in-Wonderland fuss about Scott, is forgotten.

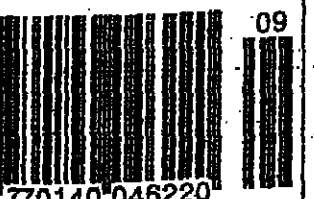
The whole debate put this sketchwriter in mind of a remark once made by one US congressman about another. Like a rotten mackerel by moonlight, it shone and stank.



"Fergie's cancelled skiing and is going to the Caribbean instead"

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60 Britons on crippled cruise ship

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

A TUG was struggling through squalls in the South China Sea last night to reach a crippled Comand cruise liner with 500 passengers, including 60 Britons, on board.

The M/V Sagaford was wallowing off the Philippines after fire broke out in its generators, leaving it without power. The tug hopes to tow the 24,000-ton vessel to Subic Bay in the Philippines for repairs, enforcing a delay of several days for the passengers, who have each paid at least £16,000 for a 90-day round-the-world trip.

Nobody was injured by the fire, which was quickly extinguished. Winds in the area where the Sagaford is lying were comparatively light yesterday, but conditions were said to be deteriorating.

Murder suspect tricks EC woman

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

MURDER suspect Victor Farrant has been hiding with a woman friend in a Brussels suburb, detectives said yesterday. The woman, in her 40s, had no idea he was on the run, they added.

Mr Farrant, 46, is wanted for the murder of Glenda Hoskins, 45, a mother of three, who was found dead at her home in Port Solent, near Portsmouth, on February 3.

Yesterday Detective Supt David Hanna, leading the manhunt, said: "The woman received a phone call from Farrant out of the blue asking her to put him up. . . . She was innocently used by him to provide safe accommodation."

He added: "This again highlights just how dangerous this man can be. He can make contact with somebody after 17 years and charm his way into their home."

The woman, who is not English, works for the European Community. Mr Farrant disappeared again on February 21 in her white Citroen AX with a distinctive number

Forces lose ninth plane in crash

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE unprecedented toll of air crashes suffered by the RAF and Royal Navy this year rose to nine in less than seven weeks yesterday after a Tornados GR1 fighter bomber went down in Germany.

Ministry of Defence officials are "extremely concerned" about the high number of crashes that have led to the deaths of four aircrew. Yesterday the two crew were slightly injured after ejecting from the Tornado.

RAF investigators are trying to discover if there is a link since the first accident on January 10 when two Tornado F3 air defence aircraft collided in mid-air about nine miles from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire.

Seven of the aircraft have been flown by RAF crews, and the other two by Royal Navy crews. The combined replacement cost of the nine aircraft would be close to £200 million. RAF sources said it was unlikely there was a common

PLANES LOST SINCE JAN 10

2 Tornado F3s, Jan 10, two lost in mid-air collision near RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire. Four crew ejected safely.

2 Tornado GR1s, Jan 11, crashed near RAF Bruggen in Germany. Italian exchange pilot and navigator ejected.

Feb 26, crashed near RAF Leuchars, in Germany. Two crew ejected.

1 Jaguar, Jan 23, crashed after take-off from RAF Collesat, pilot killed.

1 Hawk, Feb 13, crashed at RAF Valley, pilot survived.

2 Sea Harriers, Feb 13, Royal Navy Harrier lost over Adak, pilot survived.

Feb 23, crashed over Somerset, pilot and navigator killed.

1 Harrier, Feb 19, RAF Harrier crashed at Wittering, returning from Cyprus.

fault because the aircraft were so different. There are no moves to ground the Tornados or Harriers.



Farrant: charmed way into woman's house

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Prison officers demand union fraud inquiry



Bartell: asked to explain expenses

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of the Prison Officers' Association are being urged to call in the police after allegations of expenses irregularities and poor financial controls.

There are also moves to strip John Bartell, former chairman of the 20,000-strong union, of his honorary life membership pending an inquiry into his expenses.

A special conference next week will hear demands for the fraud squad to be called in

to the union's north London headquarters.

A union insider said: "There are a number of questions that still need to be answered. Until we have a full independent audit of the accounts, I do not think we can say these matters are closed."

Three hundred delegates representing officers at 135 jails in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will attend the two-day meeting at the TUC in London. The conference is the climax of months of infighting, including a disputed election to replace Mr

Bartell as chairman and the resignation of Terry McLaren, a vice-chairman.

A copy of the conference agenda seen by *The Times* shows 136 motions, including three expressing no-confidence in the national executive.

Nine motions call for the police to be brought in to investigate a range of allegations of financial irregularities. One urges the national executive committee to call in the police to investigate the "financial deals of former chairman John Bartell during

the period January 1, 1992, to July 10, 1995."

The accounts "Grant Thornton are conducting an inquiry into expenses claimed by Mr Bartell, who resigned on medical grounds in April last year. He had been chairman for nine years."

In a confidential 50-page document, Mr Bartell was asked by Grant Thornton to explain restaurant bills for three years and claims for foreign travel, foreign currency and other expenses.

He said last night that his expenses had been incurred

while carrying out the policy of the union. "Nobody has made any allegations against me other than express concern at the amount of money spent."

"All my expenses were approved by the auditor [the union's former treasurer, Terry Jarman]. In areas where there was any likelihood that I would be responsible for payment, that payment was reimbursed to the union."

The new chairman, John Boddington, and the general secretary, David Evans, were not available for comment yesterday.

Sex code agreed for teenage magazines

New measures are to be introduced to control sexually explicit material published in magazines for teenage girls. At a meeting with Tom Sackville, a Home Office Minister, magazine publishers agreed yesterday to draw up a code of practice, spelling out in detail what sort of material was suitable for children of different ages. The move is likely to be a scupper for a Private Member's Bill brought by Peter Luff, a Tory backbencher, which would require magazines to state on their cover that some articles are unsuitable for children under a certain age.

Although Mr Luff's Bill had widespread support in Parliament, publishers argued that it would be impossible to enforce and could be counterproductive by tempting younger readers to buy unsuitable magazines. Mr Luff said last night that he was encouraged that publishers had agreed to draw up a code. "I have always said that the best possible outcome would be if publishers agreed to behave more responsibly. Even though I expect my Bill to be objected to on Friday, it will still be published."

£1,900 for white teacher

A teacher who won a race discrimination case against Lambeth council after claiming she was rejected for a job because she was white was awarded £1,936 compensation yesterday. Last week an industrial tribunal ruled that the south London council had unfairly turned down Ursula Gregory in her application to teach basic mathematics to a class of students from ethnic minorities. After yesterday's hearing, Mrs Gregory said: "Lambeth, in spite of an avowed equal opportunities policy for recruitment, did not apply a consistent standard for marking candidates."

Disabled attack fire plan

Disabled employees at the Ministry of Defence have reacted angrily to plans to shut them in "large canteens" in the event of fire. MoD buildings are being fitted with protected rooms for disabled workers who are unable to use escape routes, but staff in wheelchairs are concerned about the implications of being left behind in a blazing building. Martin Haumann, a wheelchair-bound clerical worker, said: "At first I thought it was a joke. Then I was very angry. The wording is extremely belittling."

Brain-damaged boy dies

Thomas Creedon, the brain-damaged two-year-old whose parents were seeking the legal right to let him die, has died of natural causes. Thomas, from Hull, was blind and deaf, had no control over his limbs and cried inconsolably. John Burdon, the solicitor for Con and Fiona Creedon, said that their son died at home on Friday night. The cause of death was given as cerebral palsy following a chest infection. Mrs Creedon said the funeral would be private. "We need some time to ourselves to grieve for Thomas."

Life for paedophile

A paedophile who preyed on children for 20 years was given 14 life sentences yesterday. Derek Mitchell, 55, of St Mellons, Cardiff, was found guilty at Cardiff Crown Court on 20 counts of multiple rape, indecent assault and other sexual offences against four boys and two girls. Judge Stephens told Mitchell that his crimes amounted to a "horrible breach of trust". He said: "One can only wonder what long-term damage you have inflicted on these children." The sentences will run concurrently.

Pet undertaker jailed

A pet cemetery owner who buried animals in rags was jailed for 27 months yesterday by Derby Crown Court. Freda Cunningham, 55, of Weston-on-Trent, Derbyshire, was convicted last November. She had sent a sick-note to the court, then was not seen again until being arrested at Gatwick airport earlier this month. Cunningham was jailed for two years for seven charges of obtaining property by deception, and was given a further three months, to run consecutively, after admitting contempt of court.

Cliffhanger couple quit

A couple whose cliff-top home is in danger of falling into the sea have finally agreed to move. George Scott, 71, and his wife Jeanne, 56, decided to abandon their two-bedroom bungalow at Happisburgh, Norfolk, after seeing a nearby empty chalet crumble away at the weekend. They had been determined to stay in the home they paid £15,000 for nine years ago even though their 180ft garden has been washed away. The couple have moved to a council bungalow in the nearby coastal village of East Runton.

Hostage hopes rise

Four Cambridge graduates held hostage by Indonesian rebels will be visited by Red Cross officials for the first time today in a new attempt to free them. The visit was agreed at a three-hour meeting yesterday in the jungle where the hostages were captured seven weeks ago and are still believed to be held. A Foreign Office spokesman said the speed was "cautious optimism" that the hostages, including two Dutch citizens and six Indonesians, could be released soon. They have not been seen by Westerners since their capture.

War heroes recognised

The heroism of thousands of black South Africans in two world wars were finally recognised at a ceremony in Cape Town yesterday attended by President Mandela and the Duke of Edinburgh. The veterans have only recently been added to the roll of honour of the formerly whites-only British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The league now includes veterans of the anti-apartheid movement and the South African Defence Force against which it fought.

Crossword winners

The opening regional final of the *Times* Abercrombie Crossword Championship in Manchester was won by Neil Robinson, 53, a retired computer manager from Scarborough, North Yorkshire. He solved the four puzzles in an average of seven minutes. The runner-up and second qualifier for the national final in October was Phil Jordan, 48, a taxi driver from Manchester, with 74 minutes.

Government tells Sinn Fein it will not be swayed by renewed violence

IRA terror 'must end before peace talks begin'

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday demanded an immediate and permanent end to the terrorist campaign at its first face-to-face meeting with Sinn Fein since the IRA ended its ceasefire.

In two hours of talks at Stormont, senior officials from the Northern Ireland Office told Sinn Fein that the Government would not bow to threats from the IRA. Quentin Thomas, the deputy secretary, told the party that the Government would not negotiate with it if the IRA maintained its campaign.

The Government set out its conditions as it announced that 400 extra troops, from the Royal Dragoon Guards, were being sent to the Province as a "precautionary measure".

In a statement the NIO said it had told Sinn Fein that elections provided the best route into all-party talks. But it warned the party that it could only join the negotiations if there was a "genuine end to the renewal of violence". The statement hinted that the Gov-

ernment may not hold further talks with Sinn Fein if the IRA maintained its campaign, adding that future meetings would be "closely related to events on the ground".

Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Fein delegation, said that he was disappointed by the refusal of the officials to name a specific date for all-party talks. He insisted that the peace process could be rebuilt only if Britain gave an "unambiguous public assurance" that such substantive negotiations would begin.

"I am afraid it appears that the British Government is still not prepared to take risks for peace. The situation is very grave indeed," he said.

Mr McGuinness also condemned the Government's plans to hold elections in Northern Ireland as an attempt to impose a stumbling block. He said: "The demand by the British Government and Unionists for an elected body... is something which is total anathema to the entire nationalist community. It has



David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, at the Commons yesterday. Sinn Fein condemned Unionist moves

little to do with establishing electoral mandates but more to do with the British Government and the Unionists attempting to pre-empt and pre-determine the outcome of negotiations."

The meeting yesterday was the first time during the Troubles that the Government has held public talks with Sinn

Fein during an IRA campaign. The Sinn Fein delegation included Gerry Kelly, a convicted IRA bomber, who took part with Mr McGuinness in the party's secret contacts with the Government in 1993.

Sinn Fein's sombre mood after the meeting will add to a growing sense of doom at the chances of rescuing the peace

process. It has hinted that the IRA might restore its ceasefire if Britain sets a specific date for all-party talks.

However, the Government says that it cannot "manufacture" talks and that it must create the conditions that will give Unionists the confidence to join such talks. Sinn Fein's demand for a specific date has

proved the stumbling block in Anglo-Irish negotiations for a summit between John Major and John Bruton tomorrow.

Dublin says it would be prepared to accept Britain's proposal for elections if Britain agreed to name a date for the start of all-party talks.

Guard for Princess, page 4

Rightwingers press for tough line at Turin summit

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory Right foreshadowed fresh trouble for John Major yesterday by raising the stakes over next month's summit on the future of the European Union.

Leading Conservatives urged the Prime Minister to threaten mayhem inside the EU unless Britain is granted concessions over items such as a single currency, the powers of

the European Court of Justice and moves towards closer political union.

The implication behind the Right's latest and most menacing shopping list was that Mr Major could have a fresh Conservative rebellion on his hands if he tries to steer a middle course at the Turin summit. A paper from the European Research Group, which includes Jonathan Aitken and Sir Archie Hamilton, former ministers, effectively rejected the Government's planned negotiating strategy

towards the inter-governmental conference (IGC).

The Prime Minister is on course to publish a White Paper early next month, making clear that Britain believes that European integration has gone far enough. But the group of 13 leading Tories insisted that a far more aggressive strategy was needed to stop the country being dragged into a European superstate.

The main British objective at the IGC should be clawing back many of

the powers ceded to Brussels over the 20 years of British membership, the group said. Britain should make plain that its courts should no longer be subservient to the European Court of Justice and that it will not surrender control over its currency or its foreign and defence policy.

The Government should back up its list of demands by making clear that, unless they were granted, it would use its powers under the Treaty of Rome to wreck the federal-

ist ambitions of its partners. The European Research Group, led by Sir Michael Spicer and consisting of a dozen MPs and Lord Pearson of Rannoch, said it was time for the United Kingdom to insist on "trade-offs" at the IGC under which the price for not wielding the national veto to block federalist ambitions was a string of new opt-outs bolstering national sovereignty and limiting Britain's European destiny to a loose trading relationship.

Suppliers question Post Office contracts

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMITTEE of MPs is to investigate alleged irregularities in the awarding of contracts by the Post Office. Suppliers have claimed that the Post Office hijacked designs of mail-sorting equipment and asked other manufacturers to undercut the price in breach of copyright law.

The Trade and Industry Select Committee will also examine allegations that the Post Office broke European law by awarding a £7.5 million contract without allowing other firms to tender.

The Post Office spends more than £1 billion a year with 6,000 supplier companies. A *Dispatches* programme on Channel 4 tomorrow will point to three cases that call into question the ethics of the huge purchasing operation.

In 1992 the Post Office asked Scantool, a Danish company, to supply a mail-sorting rack for trials. A Post Office report shows that it was tested against three rival designs and came out the easy winner. Scantool was told there was a

£12 million contract at stake and the firm was invited to Post Office headquarters to discuss the specifications. Yet when a tender for 1,500 frames was sent out, Scantool was not included, even though the specifications appeared to be identical to the Scantool model. The Post Office has offered Scantool a payment without prejudice but the case has still not been settled.

Another firm, Aldo Manta was awarded a £7.5 million contract for sorting frames in 1994. The firm had helped the Post Office break a strike in 1985. A rival firm, Bridgegate, which had been supplying almost identical frames to the Post Office for 20 years, was not asked to tender this time. Bridgegate suspected that its designs had been copied and started legal action against Aldo Manta. The Post Office has since purchased the disputed design rights from Bridgegate.

The Post Office has been involved in a third legal dispute with Hubbard Print, which supplied stationery,

Blunkett calls for grouping by ability

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DAVID BLUNKETT will attack progressive teaching methods and the widespread acceptance of mixed-ability classes in comprehensive schools tonight. The Shadow Education Secretary will blame a dogmatic reluctance to separate children by ability in different subjects for comprehensive schools' failure to help some pupils to realise their potential.

Mr Blunkett will tell the Social Market Foundation in



Blunkett: against selection

London that there is still "chronic under-performance" in many schools and that grammar schools provide a good education, but only to a minority of children. He will reaffirm Labour's commitment to schools that do not select children by ability. But he will call on comprehensives to group children by ability where possible.

Mr Blunkett will say: "The comprehensive school should have focused on every pupil reaching their full potential instead of developing an unfortunate association with rigid mixed-ability teaching."

The Centre for the Study of Comprehensive Schools said very few comprehensives retained mixed-ability teaching across the board. However, Tony Cobb, its director, added: "Research shows that the best mixed-ability teaching produces some of the best results. The problem is that it does require quite specific teaching skills and limited class sizes to operate successfully."

Blair gives his blessing to chablis socialists' club

By JOE JOSEPH

LEAVING no Old Labour institution unrocked, Tony Blair has blessed the transformation of Trimdon Village Working Men's Club, in his constituency of Sedgfield, Co Durham, into a swish venue where meat pies and warm pints have made way for red mullet and chilled chablis. New Labour, new Britain, new brasserie. Gone are the grubby furniture and plastic floor tiles, made sticky by spilt beer. Now patrons of the

renamed Constituency Labour Club — Mr Blair's favourite drinking spot outside Westminster — swap views on the minimum wage while sinking into thick carpets and velvet sofas.

At the bar where once only men lurked, women mingle too — following new Labour's decision not to ape the manners of Pall Mall's more antique clubs. The old club steward has been ditched to make way for an executive manager. "Wow, this is fantastic," Mr Blair said as he reopened the club this weekend after its £100,000 facelift. "Where's

the pool table gone?" Standing in front of the club's new Victorian sea-fishing prints on Friday night, he told regulars: "I remember this place 12 to 13 years ago and what has happened is a transformation. This is now a facility for the whole community and something we can all be proud of."

"If we can build on this then we have a tremendous future. North East workmen's clubs have traditionally been different but as times change, people change." At this point a heckler squeaked: "Aye, but Tony

— women in the bar?" Two and a half years ago the club was in the hands of the receiver. The local Labour party took it over and secured financial backing from the Federation Brewery. Membership has swelled since the revamp, soaring from 50 to 1,200 in the past few weeks.

Paul Trippett, 39, the club's new manager, said: "New Labour needs a new kind of Labour club and this is it. The club mirrors exactly what has happened in the party. It is all about change and encouraging people to

lift their horizons. Some of the people who have been coming for years had reservations. They grumbled even more when the bar was closed for three weeks, while it was being refurbished. But now that they are sitting in splendour with their pints I haven't heard a single complaint."

John Burton, chairman of Sedgfield Labour Party, said: "Our wine list is very extensive and when the kitchens are built we will be able to introduce a proper menu rather than the pork pies of the past."

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Rescue centres inundated as oil-soaked corpses of birds litter beaches for 35 miles

Sea Empress oil disaster 'as bad as Torrey Canyon'

By CAROL MIDDLEY AND NICK NUTTALL

THE Sea Empress oil spill is the biggest environmental disaster since the Torrey Canyon in 1967, experts said yesterday. Conservationists and wildlife rescue services estimate that 20,000 birds have been affected so far. The eventual death toll could reach 50,000, the same as when the Torrey Canyon split more than 100,000 tonnes of oil off the Cornish coast.

Beaches for 35 miles around Milford Haven, where the Sea Empress ran aground, are littered with the oil-soaked corpses of seabirds. Some 45 grey seals have been seen swimming in the oil at sea. By yesterday, about 150 badly polluted but still living birds had been rescued from Lundy

island, 40 miles to the south and 12 miles off the north Devon coast. However, southerly winds appeared to be blowing the oil away from the area last night.

About 1,500 birds, including guillemots, razorbills, scoters — a sea duck — and red-throated divers, have been taken to rescue centres around the country. Most are at the RSPCA centre at West Hatch, near Taunton in Somerset, where they are being fed, cleaned with washing up liquid, and left to dry. If they are not rescued in time, the birds die of hypothermia or toxic poisoning.

The stench of oil is overwhelming at West Hatch as more casualties arrive. The

birds, their feathers thick with black oil, shiver in their cages waiting to be treated while others clearly have difficulty breathing. Each bird is given a number and has its foot tagged before it is released. After they are unloaded from vans, the birds have a tube inserted into their stomachs and are fed with lactade, a mixture of warm glucose and minerals. Their beaks are tied and they go through a 20-minute detergent wash before being put in cages to dry.

To test if they have recovered, staff place them in specially made ponds. If they stay waterproof and can keep their buoyancy, they are considered reasonably fit. Most of the casualties will stay at the centre for two or three weeks after which they will be released from cliffs or on beaches miles away from the oil slick. The cost of treating each bird is estimated at £30.

Government advisers have said that for every dead bird found, another ten are likely to have perished at sea. But Richard White, of the Devon Wildlife Trust, said: "We estimate that for every one bird we capture alive there are up



Oiled but alive, another seabird washed up near Milford Haven heads for a rescue centre where it will be fed and cleaned before release

to 50 dead ones on the beaches or out at sea.

"We know that whole rafts of guillemots and razorbills are huddling together out in the Bristol Channel waiting to come in and breed, and from the dead birds we have seen so far they are being hit by this. This is big, very big."

"I think this could well be worse than the Torrey Canyon

and certainly worse than the Braer disaster. This oil is a different type altogether. It is heavier, like an emulsion with the texture of chocolate mousse and it doesn't disperse easily."

Elizabeth Salter, of the Marine Conservation Society, said there were many contributing factors which made this the worst marine disaster for 30

years. "The time of year could not be worse. These birds are just returning to nest and breed. It is catastrophic."

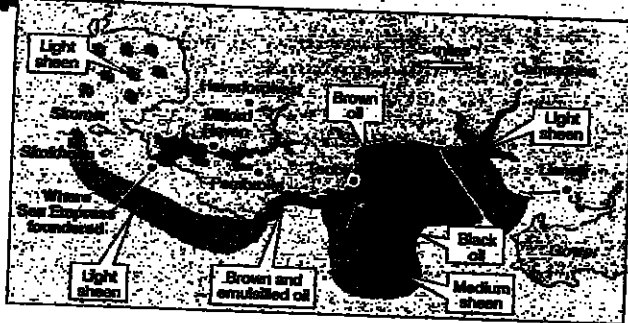
"That fact there are some of the most pristine marine conservation centres in this area — Skomer, Lundy and Grassholm — makes the potential for damage even greater. The problem here, compared to other oil

spillages, is that you have an extremely high concentration of marine life in a very small area. I would not be at all surprised if we eventually lost 50,000 birds through this."

At the RSPCA centre in West Hatch, the largest of its kind in Europe, staff and volunteers have been working round the clock to try to save the lives of birds taken off the

beaches. More than 500 have arrived in the past few days: others are being sent to hospitals as far afield as Cheshire and Norfolk. A rescue centre sponsored by Texaco has been set up near Milford Haven and a small number of birds are being treated at the homes of individual volunteers.

Counting the cost, page 26



Cambodian star of Killing Fields shot dead in Los Angeles

By GILES WHITTELL AND DALIA ALBERG

THE Cambodian doctor who found fame as an Oscar-winning actor in *The Killing Fields* after fleeing torture in his homeland has been shot dead outside his Los Angeles home.

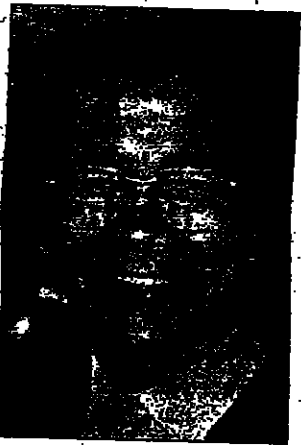
Dr Haing Ngor, 45, who played the part of a Cambodian journalist who suffered horribly under the Khmer Rouge, was killed as he returned to his home in the city's Chinatown district on Sunday evening. He died of a single gunshot wound.

The reason for the killing has not been established and police have not ruled out robbery. A long-running dispute over his fundraising activities had soured the doctor's relations with the local Cambodian community.

His own story was shocking as anything in the film: Dr Haing Ngor's wife, children and parents were among the millions killed under the Khmer Rouge. The doctor was captured and tortured for years after his bloody takeover of Cambodia.

He once recalled how he was operating in Phnom Penh's main hospital when a young boy put a gun to his head and drove him away, leaving the patient on the operating table. Khmer officials captured him in 1975 and during a long imprisonment maimed his right hand and slashed his leg with an axe. He escaped to Thailand in 1979 and settled in the United States the following year.

After four years doing odd jobs, the slight, bespectacled Dr Haing Ngor won not only fame but a role in Cambodian affairs when cast in *The Killing Fields*. His lack of professional acting experience was made up for by "life and death" training as a Khmer Rouge prisoner, he said in an interview at the time. In the film, the doctor played a role which bore strong parallels to his own life: he appeared as



Dr Haing Ngor: tortured by the Khmer Rouge

Dith Pran, a Cambodian journalist who acted as an aide to a New York Times correspondent. Mr Dith Pran was captured and imprisoned.

Dr Haing Ngor won an Oscar for best supporting actor and went on to take other roles in film and television, including *Miami Vice* and *Highway to Heaven*. Mr Dith Pran still lives in New York and works on the picture desk of *The New York Times*.

Dr Haing Ngor often returned to Cambodia as a doctor, businessman and mediator, and founded two charities for Khmer victims, Aid to Displaced Persons and Enfants d'Angkor. Yesterday



Haing Ngor, right, in Putnam's *The Killing Fields*

those who had worked with him on *The Killing Fields* expressed horror at his death. The South African playwright Athol Fugard, who appeared in the film as a United Nations official, said: "Having survived the horrors of the killing fields of Cambodia, to be mowed down in an American one is so tragic. My sense of personal loss is appalling. He was one of the most humble, generous men I've ever met."

Sir David Putnam, the film's producer, said: "He was the best of the best, the nicest of men. I'm so stunned. I spoke to him a week ago. We were due to meet in Phnom Penh." Sir David believed that it was the tragic ending to a mugging. Dr Haing Ngor used to carry large amounts of cash. "It happens all the time in LA," he said.

Ly Thuch, a spokesman for Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the Cambodian Prime Minister, said: "All of Cambodia is shocked at the news."

The Cambodian mission to the United Nations said that the doctor's fundraising for Cambodian orphans had brought him into conflict with his compatriots in southern California, many of whom are ardent supporters of the country's royalist party. Dr Ngor was a People's Party supporter.

ONE OF THE LAST NAMES THAT SPRINGS TO MIND FOR INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE...

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Equity Balanced	1st	1st	1st	1st
Equity Conservative	1st	1st	1st	1st
Equity Conservative	1st	1st	1st	1st

SUN ALLIANCE PENSION FUNDS				
	Quartile Ranking			
	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	5 Years
Equity Growth	1st	1st	1st	1st
Equity Income	1st	2nd	2nd	1st
Equity Conservative	1st	1st	2nd	2nd
Equity Balanced	1st	1st	1st	1st
Equity Conservative	1st	2nd	1st	1st
Equity Conservative	1st	1st	1st	1st

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Labour elects man in a dress

By ANDREW PIERCE

A LEFT-WING Labour party was thrown into turmoil last night after electing a man awaiting a sex change operation to a women-only committee. Some party activists have objected to the election of Paula Thomas, formerly Paul, to the women's council in Tower Hamlets, east London.

Bethnal Green Labour Party has set up an investigation to examine whether the new officer of the committee, who describes himself as Miss Thomas, can take up the post which has

always been exclusively female. The appointment is being opposed by a small but vocal group of party members who have complained to Tessa Jowell, the Labour spokeswoman for women.

A protest has been sent to the party headquarters, claiming that the victory by Miss Thomas paves the way for any man to disrupt internal elections by wearing a dress and a wig and calling himself a woman.

Julian Sharpe, secretary of Bethnal Green Labour

party, said that the issue of whether Miss Thomas was still technically a man was not relevant. He said: "Paula has always been accepted as a woman by the local party. Whether she was born a woman is irrelevant. It is all a question of the interpretation of the rules."

The local Labour party, which has a history of supporting minority causes, persuaded Tower Hamlets Council last year to lay out guidelines enabling transsexuals to use leisure facilities in the borough.

IRA threat forces security review

Princess of Wales bows to pressure for armed guard

By Andrew Pierce and Alan Hamilton

THE Princess of Wales reluctantly gave in to pressure from Buckingham Palace yesterday and agreed to round-the-clock armed guards for the first time since she announced her withdrawal from public life.

A plain-clothes armed policeman escorted the Princess to her London gymnasium yesterday morning as security was tightened around the Royal Family in response to the renewed threat from the IRA. The Princess arrived at the health club by an alternative route, in a different car, with tinted windows, and at a different time from her usual routine.

The officer, a member of the Royal and Diplomatic Protection Squad, waited for the Princess for 60 minutes while she worked out at Chelsea Harbour Club. The Princess, who is used to travelling without a minder, left in a green Rover car with the bodyguard in the passenger seat.

The change in the lifestyle of the Princess was the most visible sign so far of how seriously members of the Royal Family have taken the IRA's

latest mainland bombing campaign. The Princess has fiercely resisted attempts in the past to have security cover imposed on her because of the effect it would have on her privacy. Armed guards have accompanied her on only a handful of formal functions in the last two years.

Security was perceptibly tighter at all the royal palaces yesterday. Soldiers in combat fatigues stood guard with rifles outside the main entrance to Buckingham Palace. The ceremonial red tunics and bearskins, one of the capital's most distinctive sights, were nowhere to be seen. Marksmen were on the roof.

Police officers with flak jackets and pistols clearly on show by their side mingled freely with tourists in front of the palace. No staff members, no matter how senior, were immune from the stricter security checks. Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, who is one of the most distinctive figures at the palace, yesterday showed his security pass to armed guards at the palace gates as he arrived for

work. The traditional changing of the guard ceremony was expected to go ahead as planned today.

At the entrance to St James's Palace, members of the Irish Guards in combat dress paraded adjoining streets. Three armed policemen maintained a discreet presence at the entrance to Clarence House, the home of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

A police officer patrolling close to Clarence House said: "In the past any armed officers were instructed to be discreet. Now we are instructed to be overt and to have the guns clearly on show. It is partly to demonstrate strength and to reassure visitors."

Builders working in the area are being subjected to more rigorous and regular security checks. John Leonard, who was working on a building next door to Clarence House, said: "It is a bit unnerving to look up and see a gun. They were much more relaxed before the ceasefire ended."

Police officers with dogs were out in force, helicopters hovered overhead, and armed police were sighted in Whitehall. Armed officers stood by members of the Household Cavalry at Horseguards Parade. Hands were discreetly put over guns when tourists posed by the police for photographs.

Extra police officers were drafted in to patrol the perimeter fence at Kensington Palace, the home of the Princess of Wales, Princess Margaret and other members of the Royal Family. Litterbins were removed from outside Windsor Castle where soldiers, armed with automatic weapons, were again in evidence.

The Duchess of York has an armed bodyguard only on official functions. But Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, her daughters, have constant security cover because they are direct heirs to the throne, as do Prince William and Prince Harry.



Gerry Davitt with Joe. "He did a magnificent job and stayed calm throughout"



The wrecked Beach Sundowner on the grass runway

Boy helps father to happy landing

By Jonathan Prynne, Transport Correspondent

A BOY of 11 helped to save the lives of four people in a stricken aircraft after he took control of the plane during preparations for an emergency landing. Joe Davitt's ambition to be a pilot was fulfilled earlier than he expected when his father handed over control of the crippled light aircraft after the plane lost half its undercarriage during a sightseeing flight over York.

Joe, 11, was left holding the joystick while Gerry Davitt explained emergency landing procedures to his two passengers in the rear of the aircraft. As Mr Davitt, 39, waited for clearance for a priority landing, Joe circled the Beach Sundowner around the landing strip at about 1,200ft.

Mr Davitt, a company director, said: "There is no intercom in the plane so the two people in the back had to be briefed on crash landing

procedure." He said his son, a pupil at St Ethelburga's College near York, had done "a magnificent job, and remained calm throughout".

Mr Davitt retook the controls for the landing on a waterlogged grass runway at Sherburn in Elmer airfield near York and landed safely.

Mr Davitt said: "I only had landing gear on the right-hand side, which meant I had to land and run on one wheel until I slowed down and could drop the wing on to the grass without blowing the plane up. When I realised we had lost half of our landing gear I really thought we were not going to get out of it alive."

All four on board escaped without a scratch. The passengers were Mr Davitt's nephew Paul Dutton, 18, and Mr Dutton's girlfriend, Julie Kersley, 16, who was taken to Pontefract Hospital and treated for shock.

Prince splashes down in Morocco

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABAT

HEAVY rain greeted the Prince of Wales as he arrived in the Moroccan capital yesterday afternoon at the start of a two-day official visit, his second in less than a year.

The Prince, a guest of King Hassan, left his Ministry of Defence aircraft by the back door at Rabat airport, missing the red carpet laid out for him. He was greeted on the rain-soaked tarmac by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed. The two then splashed along the line of a saturated guard of honour before making the 30-

mile journey to King Hassan's hunting lodge at Bouznika.

The King, 66, looking pale and tired amid constant rumours of ill-health, had invited the Prince for lunch at the lodge rather than his palace in Rabat to fit in with his boar-hunting schedule.

The Prince had begun his visit privately on Friday in Marrakech. But plans for a day's watercolour painting in the shadow of the Atlas mountains were washed out.

After lunching with King Hassan yesterday, he presented medical equipment to a cardiac unit at the Avicenne hospital in Rabat.

Climbdown costs Take That singer £150,000

By Joanna Bale

THE former Take That singer Robbie Williams was forced to pay an estimated £150,000 in costs yesterday after dropping legal action to release him from his recording contract hours before the case was due to be heard in the High Court.

About 30 teenage girls, some of whom had camped outside for most of the night, were first through the court doors to grab seats in the public gallery, but the hushed predawn soon echoed to squeals of disappointment as they realised he would not appear.

The climbdown, agreed late on Sunday night between solicitors representing the 22-year-old singer and his

record company RCA, heads off a High Court action in which Mr Williams was due to argue his right to pursue a solo career with a different company.

The decision is a double blow for Mr Williams, who is said to be worried that since Take That decided to split up earlier this month the solo career of Gary Barlow, widely recognised to be the most talented member of the group, will take precedence over his at RCA.

After the two-minute hearing Mr Justice Lightman said: "The parties have been very sensible in settling this matter in this way and I congratulate them."

BMG, which owns RCA, issued a statement explaining that costs had

been awarded in its favour. The statement included a comment from Mr Williams, who was sacked by the other members of Take That in July for disagreeing with the group's clean-living code of conduct. It said: "I'm extremely sorry that I ever brought this case and I now fully accept the validity and enforceability of my BMG recording contract. I remain a BMG artist."

He had claimed that RCA had an exclusive call on his talents, which he said was an unreasonable restraint of trade, and therefore, unenforceable. RCA said his contract did allow him to pursue a solo career.

Paul Weller, former singer and guitarist with The Jam, was sued

yesterday for more than £100,000 by co-musicians of the long-disbanded group in a wrangle over royalties. Rick Buckler, drummer, and Bruce Foxton, bass guitarist, are taking action against Mr Weller and his father John, who acted as the group's manager.

The writ claims that when the group was formed in 1974 it was agreed that all royalties, except those for songwriting, would be divided equally. The Jam split in 1982 after a recording career that included 18 hit singles.

Mr Weller and his father were said yesterday to have failed properly to account for their dealings in the Jam's records. The hearing continues.

Photograph, page 24

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Vernon Coleman

For a cricket lover:

The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K. Jerome's classic "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinniswood in PUNCH. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." "Coleman is a very funny writer," said This England. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Seminal reading includes de Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the peregrinations of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said The Cricketer magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

For a golf lover:

Anyone who likes golf will love The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Hugely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chronicle. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of after shave.

For a cat lover:

Feline fans will love Alice's Diary which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cat. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cat. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who love this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs Y of Essex. "Please send copies of Alice's Diary to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R of Lancashire. Alice's Diary is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warn you: when you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cat and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give more joy and laughter than almost any other present you can choose.

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Teacher used bogus degree to become headmistress

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A HEADMISTRESS who improved examination results and morale at her secondary school was arrested after it was discovered that she had lied on her application form.

Alison Durbar, enhanced her chances of becoming head of Haslingden High School in Walsley-le-Dale, Preston, by pretending to have a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Open University. She added O and A-level passes to her qualifications and said she was doing research for a doctorate.

Durbar, 46, also inflated her salary by lying about a predecessor's pay. Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Her two years in charge of the 1,300-pupil school came to an abrupt end in December 1994 when police arrived at her Preston home at 7am. The house was searched and Durbar arrested.

Detectives were called in by school governors after a tip-off from the three deputy heads who had found documents about Durbar's pay.

The court was told that during her tenure there had been an improvement in GCSE results and in the school's standing in the community. Judge Bourke said the school had not suffered by her

false claims. In 1994, 46 per cent of pupils gained five or more GCSEs at grades A to C, but in 1995 the figure was 49 per cent.

Durbar was sentenced to one year on probation and ordered to pay £2,000 costs. The judge told her: "It would be wrong to deprive you of your liberty. You are the ultimate casualty. You invented your qualifications to get this post and as a result you dealt a death blow to your career. You have thrown away your excellent record."

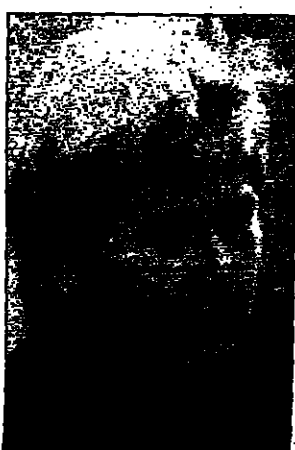
Durbar, formerly deputy head at a school in Cornwall, admitted obtaining her position by making false claims. She also admitted obtaining £4,017 by alleging that she was on a lower pay scale than a predecessor.

Roderick Carus, QC, acting for Durbar, said she was a "hardworking woman with gifts for teaching and organisation. She was conscientious and diligent as head teacher. She improved the morale and the academic achievements at this large school. Durbar introduced a breath of fresh air with her efficiency and industry."

Alan Conrad, for the prosecution, agreed that Durbar was a very experienced teacher and an able administrator. In the summer of 1992 she was appointed deputy head on the strength of claiming she had eight O levels, two A levels and a BA from the Open University.

A few months later she successfully applied for the head's post, saying she had an honours degree and was studying for a doctorate at two universities. Mr Conrad said: "She did not have an honours degree or diplomas and was not studying for a doctorate. She had only six O levels and one A level."

"Miss Durbar lied when she told the governors her predecessor had been on a higher grade. It led to her getting more pay."



Durbar: described as diligent and efficient

Boys aged 8 and 9 burn down school

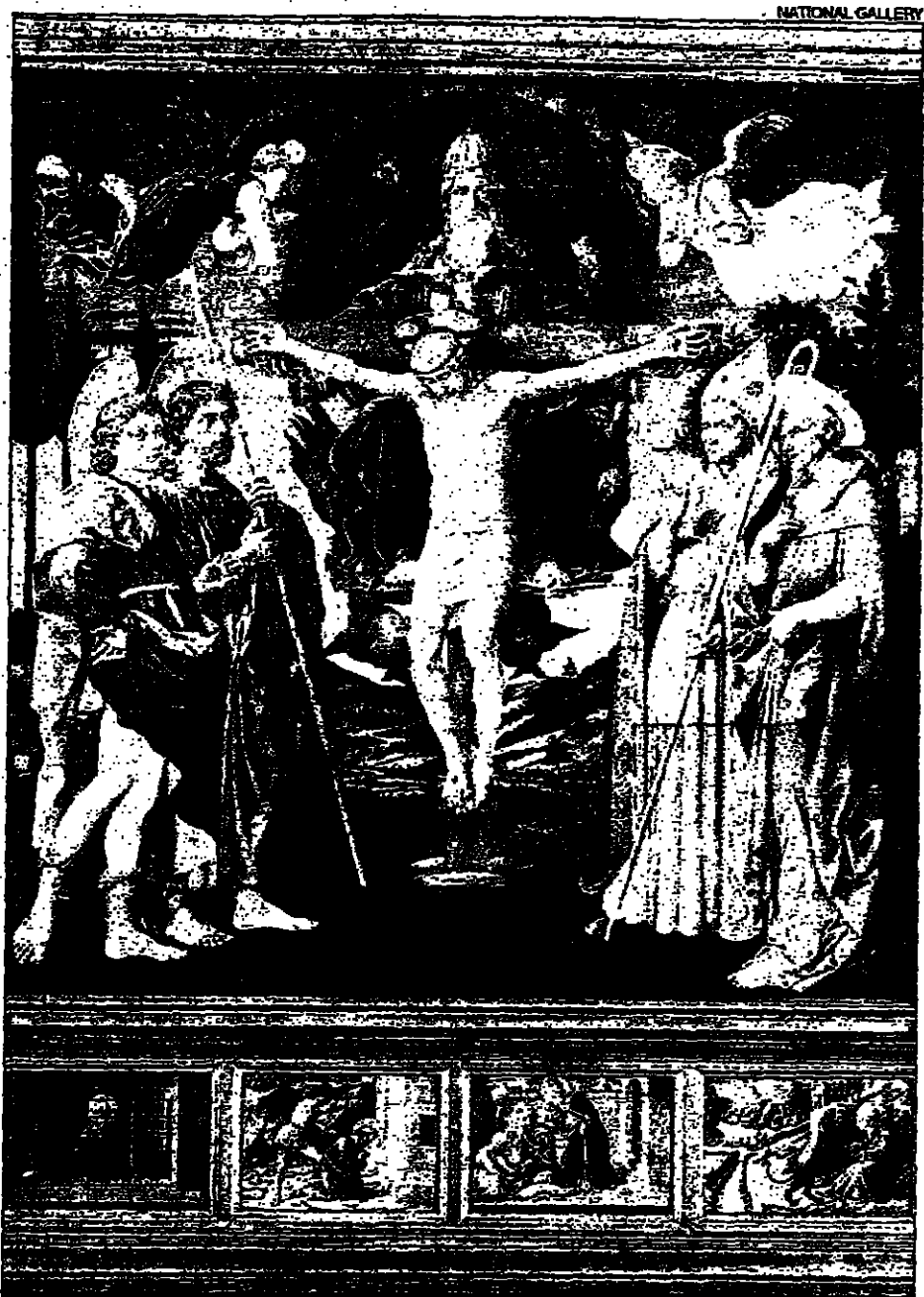
TWO boys aged eight and nine yesterday admitted starting a fire that destroyed a primary school. They cannot be prosecuted because they are below the age of criminal responsibility.

Greenacres Primary School in Harlestone, Shrewsbury, will be closed for several months and its 300 pupils will be kept at home for at least a week while governors find temporary classrooms. The fire caused £500,000 damage to the school buildings.

Inspector Peter Jones of Shrewsbury police said: "We are not looking for anyone else in connection with the fire."

after interviewing the two boys. They are aged eight and nine so are, by law, below the age of criminality, but a report will be sent by us to social services." Legal experts said the families involved were unlikely to be sued.

Stewart Kidd, director of the Fire Protection Association, said 85 per cent of all school fires were started deliberately. "Arsonists have been getting increasingly younger. There has been a growing number of children under the age of 14 committing arson, whereas ten years ago it was unusual to see a child of this age doing this," he said.



The main work, *The Trinity with Saints*, by Francesco Pesellino of Florence



The final missing panel, *The Vision of St Augustine*, by Fra Filippo Lippi

Fragment of masterpiece found after 200 years

By DAIVA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A 15TH-CENTURY painting in the National Gallery is to be reunited with a panel missing from the masterpiece for 200 years. The fragment was discovered in the Hermitage State Museum in St Petersburg.

The panel, which depicts the Vision of St Augustine, belongs to Pesellino's Trinity Altarpiece, commissioned in 1455 for the church of the Campagna dei Preti in Pistoia, near Florence. The church was destroyed by fire in the 18th century when it is believed, the altarpiece was sawn into sections.

The main tier was cut into five fragments and the five panels at its base were also separated, probably to make

it more saleable. Over the next 100 years the various pieces were put together by the National Gallery — one panel, a birthday present from Queen Victoria to Prince Albert in 1846, has been on loan since 1919 from the Royal Collection — until just one piece was missing.

It was found by Dillian Gordon, the National Gallery's curator of early Italian paintings, while examining infra-red studies of works in the Hermitage collection. "It has the same technical features, such as the horizontal line of underdrawing drawn across the top and bottom of each panel marking off the limits of the composition," she said. The panel, which the

Hermitage has agreed to lend to London, will be reunited with the altarpiece at an exhibition at the National Gallery next month.

Pesellino (c.1422-57), a Florentine about whom little is known, died before the altarpiece was finished. It was completed by another master, Fra Filippo Lippi (c.1406-69), whose pupils included Botticelli, Lippi, who collaborated with Pesellino on another altarpiece, painted the missing panel.

Close examination of the altarpiece reveals the division of labour: there are differences in style and technique. Dr Gordon said: "It is wonderful to have that final piece of the puzzle slotted in."

Cancer consultants refuse to ration care in cash crisis

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CONSULTANTS at a cancer centre that turned away terminally ill patients because it was short of money have told hospital managers they will not ration care.

Specialists at the Bristol Oncology Centre have written to Hugh Ross, chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare Trust, which runs the centre, saying that it would be inhumane to expect them to decide who should receive treatment.

Earlier this month the centre disclosed that it was turning away terminally ill patients to concentrate on treating those that it had some chance of curing, because of a shortage of funds.

The centre, which is treating 25 per cent more patients than a year ago, faces a £500,000 overspend this year. It has closed a ward, taken one of its radiotherapy machines out of service and left some staff posts unfilled.

In the letter, the consultant oncologists say it is impossible to save significant amounts of money this year by cutting back the service. Reducing standards would be "professionally unacceptable... We provide a normal standard oncology service provided by any regional centre and our

spending is in no way profligate."

In a challenge to Avon health authority, the main funders of the centre, the consultants say that if the service is to be restricted, patients must be told "why they are not receiving a level of care comparable to that in other parts of the country".

The issue is to be raised in an adjournment debate in the Commons today by Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, who said the cuts were appalling.

One consultant at the centre said that patients were being brought in to have their treatment planned and were then sent away, often in pain, for three weeks until they reached the top of the waiting list. "Targeting the dying is just impossible," he said. "The radiographers and nurses get upset. It's a bad situation. We just haven't felt able to refuse these patients."

Dr Margaret Spittle, Dean of Clinical Oncology at the Royal College of Radiologists, said that the incidence of cancer was increasing as the population aged and as scientific advances meant that more patients could be treated. "Resources have not kept up with these trends," she said.

Club for old-timers splits village

By JOHN YOUNG

THE peace and harmony of a Berkshire village is threatened by a proposal to form a club restricted to residents of at least 25 years' standing.

The villages of Swallowfield, Risely and Farley Hill form a single parish about six miles south of Reading, with a total population of about 2,000. They were once farming communities but about half the adult working population now have jobs in the nearby towns of Reading, Bracknell, Wokingham and Basingstoke, while the rest commute further afield, mainly to London.

The idea of a "25 club" was

put forward by Bob Young, a parish councillor, who said there were fears that the running of Swallowfield could be "hijacked by a few articulate outsiders. Meanwhile the older families have less and less to do with decisions affecting the village's future."

But it has upset some residents, including John McDonagh, a garage owner, who would be excluded from the club since he has lived in Swallowfield for only 23 years. "They're behaving like a bunch of idiots," he said. "The people who run the parish council and the village hall are very good at setting things up for their own clique, but so far

as they're concerned the rest of us don't count."

"I have another shop in Risely and a lot of people there feel left out because the people here in Swallowfield seem to think they're superior."

Celia Adams, the clerk to the council, was doing her best yesterday to smooth ruffled feathers, insisting that the proposal had been misunderstood. "It is intended to bring people together rather than be divisive," she said.

"It goes hand in hand with a welcome pack which we are preparing for newcomers... It's not a case of some old councillors getting together to exclude the others. Quite the

reverse. The whole idea was that a group of people who might feel excluded from things should have a voice. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience that might get lost unless some special provision is made to make sure their views are heard."

Fred Holloway, who also just fails to qualify, agrees. "It makes sense to have people who are wise and experienced working for the good of the village. I've never found Swallowfield an unfriendly place," he said. "But it's somewhere where you have to be prepared to muck in. You have to go to the pub, the church and the shop to meet people."

Sales of noble snack top £5m a day

By ROBIN YOUNG

WHEN the 4th Earl of Sandwich called for meat between two slices of bread to sustain him during all-night card games, he can have had little idea what he was starting. Two centuries later, Britons spend £5.2 million a day on ready-made sandwiches and consume 1.3 billion a year.

The market has grown 75 per cent in the past five years

while sales of fish and chips, burgers and other takeaway food have lagged, according to the market researcher Mintel. Sandwiches account for more than a third of the total fast-food market, which is valued at £5.3 billion a year.

Sales flourished during the recession when consumers traded down to sandwiches in place of more expensive restaurant lunches. They have a

continuing advantage because the average lunch break has been reduced to 32 minutes and three in 20 workers stay at their desks through lunch, Mintel says.

The researchers found that many people eat sandwiches because they consider them healthier than other fast foods. One in three of those questioned, however, thought sandwich prices were too high.

The most popular fillings are prawn mayonnaise, chicken, bacon, lettuce and tomato; and egg mayonnaise. Exotic varieties command 20 per cent of the market. Recent offerings have included alligator and kangaroo meat, and strawberries and cream on chocolate bread. Specialty breads include sour dough, ciabatta and walnut flavour.

Such innovations have raised the status of the sandwich

to that of gourmet fare, Mintel says, but "these products will never replace fried-and-tested basics such as prawn and cheese with pickle, which have mass appeal."

Mintel estimates there are now more than 8,000 sandwich bars in the country, and that most outlets offer a choice of 12 to 15 varieties. Sandwiches are also being sold in petrol filling stations and newsagents. Marks & Spencer, believed to be the biggest retailer, sells three million a year from its Moorgate branch in the City of London.

Mintel said yesterday: "The sandwich is a popular option with shoppers, travellers and students. All appreciate the convenience of eating on the move and the ready availability and variety." Sandwiches, Mintel, £500, telephone 0171-606 6000.



Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover KG (father and son) do not hold hereditary titles (report, February 16). Both are peers in their own right.

Of money raised for charity by Mrs M. D. L. Andrews, appointed MBE in the New Year's honours list (report, December 30), the Multiple Sclerosis Society received £91,824, part of which was used for a freehold purchase.

and St George's Hospital, Tooting, received £14,704 for pain relief equipment.

Following a report, "Drugs are luring London outlaws to the Wild West" (December 9), we wish to make it clear that Mr Tony Catmull, who was shot in the Shepherd and Dog pub, was an innocent victim of a senseless shooting and in no way involved in any gangsterism. We regret any embarrassment caused by the report.

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23:30



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Bingham finds no fault with minimum prison sentences



Sir Thomas called for a rational argument

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary's plans for tougher sentencing, which have created a rift between judges and ministers, have won limited support from one of the country's most senior judges.

In his first public comment on the plans, to be outlined in a White Paper in the spring, Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, says proposals for minimum sentences (for repeat burglars and drug traffickers) are neither novel nor unconstitutional.

Sir Thomas is cautious not to come down on one side or the other on the merits of Michael Howard's plans. There is room "for rational argument whether it is desirable to re-

strict the judges' sentencing discretion in the way suggested". But the measures would not amount to infringing their constitutional independence. "As Parliament can prescribe a maximum penalty without infringing the constitutional independence of the judges, so it can prescribe a minimum."

Sir Thomas's intervention comes days after he publicly backed Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, over the latter's interpretation of the law on public interest immunity certificates. Sir Richard Scott's view of the law on public interest immunity certificates "was not one that all judges and practitioners would have shared", he said.

The sentencing proposals are unusual in that minimum sentences, which already exist for other of-

fences, are to be extended to more serious offences, "restricting the discretion of the sentencing judge to impose a lesser sentence in such cases", Sir Thomas says.

He adds that "the rationale underlying these proposals is not hard to understand. Scarcely a day goes by without a newspaper report of stomach-turning violence."

There is a clear public need, he says, that defendants convicted of serious violence should be, and be seen to be, seriously punished. "The citizen is entitled to expect the legal system to protect him and there is a widespread sense of insecurity."

Sir Thomas does accept that the disquiet of his judicial colleagues — including the Lord Chief Justice — is "intelligible". He says that the freedom to temper a sentence to the

face of charges of bias against the Home Secretary or of playing politics. Judges have been accused in the media and by some MPs of being "too big for their court shoes" and of using judicial review as "a means of wresting power away from ministers and arrogating it to themselves."

"I regard these lines of criticism as wholly untenable," he says. Sir Thomas also denies "any judicial bias against the Home Office or that the Home Office is the victim of exceptional reverses in the courts."

His comments will pour oil on troubled relations between judges and the Home Office, where some officials have voiced the view that judges are "gunning" for them.

Sir Thomas said that the Home Office, by the nature of its work,

makes decisions that can be challenged. Most challenges, however, fail. "The extensive publicity given to occasional decisions adverse to the Home Office gives a quite misleading impression of the department's fortunes as a litigant."

Sir Thomas points out that judicial review decisions on cases brought by the public are made by judges solely on legal grounds and are not concerned with policy merits. In all cases except those with a European angle any judicial error or "any seriously embarrassing judicial decision can be reversed by legislation".

He went on to make clear that if the European Convention on Human Rights was enshrined into British law, as judges favour, it would not undermine the sovereignty of Parliament.

'Appearance of fairness' lacking

Howard attacked by judge over silence on Fayed's

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A HIGH COURT judge urged Michael Howard yesterday to explain to Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, and his brother Ali why he had rejected their applications for British citizenship.

Mr Justice Judge turned down the Egyptian-born brothers' application for a judicial review but questioned whether it was "appropriate" that the Home Secretary should have such wide ranging powers of discretion. Although Mr Howard had acted lawfully when he turned down their request for naturalisation a year ago, his decision "lacked the appearance of fairness".

The Harrods chairman, 63, and Ali Fayed, 52, are abroad on business but their representatives immediately said that they would appeal. Outside the High Court, Michael Cole, director of public affairs for Harrods Holdings, said the judges' comments were proof that the Fayed had been treated unfairly by government ministers.

"The judge clearly said it was unfair though lawful," Mr Cole said. "We believe that he asked the Home Secretary to reconsider his position. Obviously we shall appeal with every confidence of being upheld."

Mr Justice Judge made plain that he sympathised with the Fayed and criticised the Home Office letter telling



Mohamed Al Fayed, top, and Ali are to appeal

State to reconsider as a matter of his discretion whether he should provide these particular applicants with some indication of the reasons which led to the refusal of their application for citizenship.

At a two-day hearing last week the court was told that the brothers had been "left in the dark with rumours swirling around their heads" after the Home Office threw out their applications for naturalisation without giving any reasons.

The brothers' counsel argued that the uninformative letter from the Home Office amounted to "the epitome of closed government". Michael Beloff, QC, said there had been speculation that "legally improper, purely political considerations" were behind the decision. These were "very live" concerns that could be allayed fairly and properly only if the reasons for denying citizenship were given.

There was no mention in court that Mr Al Fayed was the key source of the "cash for questions" allegations which fuelled a political scandal in Westminster last year. Neither did counsel refer to speculation that the refusal of citizenship amounted to political revenge after the Trade Department inquiry into the millionaire businessman's takeover of Harrods.

Mr Beloff said the Fayed had made Britain their home since the 1960s. They had a close affinity to it and had made enormous financial contributions in taxation and donations to charities. Their children were already citizens.

Mr Justice Judge said that however desirable it might seem to the applicants "and indeed the court", the Secretary of State could not be required under the powers of the 1981 British Nationality Act to give his reasons. Such a fundamental constitutional principle could be amended only by Parliament.

The judge also rejected the argument that Mr Howard had acted with procedural unfairness in breach of the rules of natural justice. "On the uncontradicted facts of this case, divorced from the statutory context, the process lacks the appearance of fairness, but that of itself does not render the decision unlawful."

The Fayed's spokesmen clearly found the judgment both encouraging and frustrating. Royston Webb, legal director of Harrods Holdings, said: "The judge summed up the matter in his last sentence when he asked the Home Secretary to look again at these particular issues. The judge, obviously, felt hamstrung by the statute which, perhaps, is out of date."



Jonathan Cusick and his winning entry, a caricature of the BBC Food and Drink team. He said he was "quite overwhelmed" to have won.

Times young cartoonist competition draws out the best of British talent

By ROBIN YOUNG

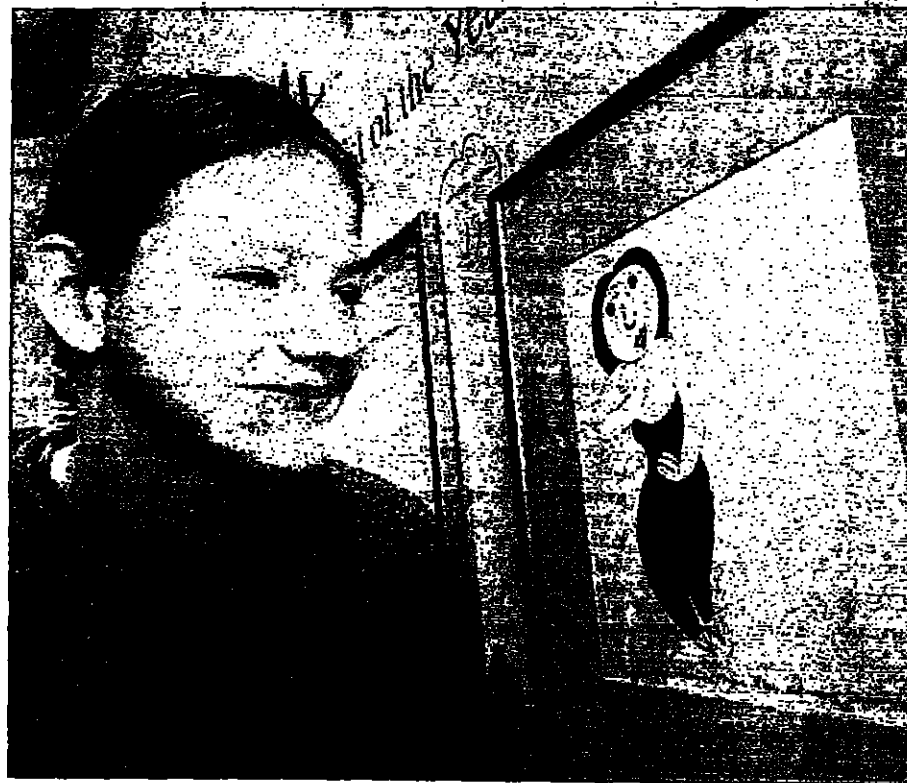
THE winner of the first Times Young Cartoonist of the Year award is young enough to have won the prize in the junior section.

Jonathan Cusick, 17, from Tamworth in Staffordshire, has been drawing from the age of 7 and devoting all his spare time to caricature since he was 12. Currently finishing a foundation course at the University of Central England in Birmingham, he hopes to go on to a degree course and make a career as an illustrator.

Before the competition, Jonathan had already submitted some 25 examples of his work to newspapers and magazines, without success. "You just have to keep trying," he said yesterday. "I am quite overwhelmed to have won this award, because the competition was obviously very strong."

His work, a colourful caricature of the team from BBC's *Food and Drink* programme was chosen from hundreds of entries. The competition, open to people under 30, was conceived by the British Cartoonists' Association to perpetuate the memory of Mel Calman, the cartoonist who for 15 years until his death in 1994 contributed pocket cartoons to the front page of *The Times*. Jonathan won £1,500 and a Calman statuette.

The runner-up, William Spring, from Stratford-upon-Avon, who won £500, had



Juliet Webb and *Chocolate Dancer*, for which she won a special commendation

some words of encouragement for Jonathan. Mr Spring, 23, is making a living as a full-time cartoonist with work published in *Private Eye*, *New Statesman* & *Society* and *The Spectator*. "I had lots of rejections at first. You have to submit work regularly for years, but eventually people do begin to take notice of what you are doing."

First prize in the under-18

section of the competition, £500 and a Calman statuette, went to Laura Tyser, 16, from Kelso in the Borders, for an engaging caricature of Keith Floyd, the television chef. Mr Floyd, who attended the awards ceremony, said: "It is a very honest likeness, and makes me look quite a good chap." Laura, a pupil at Longbridge Towers school near Berwick-upon-Tweed,

had previously designed her school's Christmas card and done cartoon work for school projects.

The youngest competitor to receive an award, a special commendation in the under-18 category, was Juliet Webb, 13, from Marlow in Buckinghamshire. "I do a lot of drawing though I am only average at art at school. I am really more interested in

space and rockets than art."

Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, presented the awards yesterday at the National Postal Museum in London, with the launch of a series of stamps featuring Calman's work. He said: "Cartoonists are very important people for us. Newspapers live by that transforming effect they can bring to events, to make us see things differently and to make us laugh." He had been particularly pleased by the strength of the work submitted, particularly in the junior category.

Other commendations in the competition, whose theme was food and drink, went to Dylan Lasegan, 16, from southeast London, for a cartoon of animals dining on humans, Christopher Shipston, 16, from Wheatley, Oxfordshire, for a cartoon entitled *Fruits de Mer*, and Sefa Woodward, 28, from Canterbury, Kent, for a sketch of turkeys entitled *Is there life after Christmas?*

The winning entries, and a selection of others submitted, are on show at the National Postal Museum in King Edward Building, King Edward Street, London EC1. The winners will be featured in the Weekend section of *The Times* on Saturday. The postal museum is also displaying the new cartoon greeting stamps and similar issues from around the world. The exhibition continues until May 3 and admission is free.

Saudi dissident 'at risk if deported'

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Islamic dissident Muhammad al-Masari could face violent opposition if deported from Britain, an appeal hearing was told today.

John O'Connor, a former Flying Squad commander who runs a security consultancy, said feelings in Dominica were running high against the deportation.

Mr O'Connor visited the Caribbean island to compile a security assessment for Dr Masari's lawyers. Yesterday he told the third day of the Immigration Appellate Authority hearing in London: "There was a volatile reaction to the notion that Dr Masari, in their words, was being dumped in their country."

"Every person I spoke to — every taxi driver, every person I spoke to in the bars — was against him coming. They talked about having a violent demonstration at the airport

when he came in. They would prevent him leaving the aircraft and, if they couldn't do that, prevent him leaving the airport."

"I don't think the police force has sufficient manpower and equipment to offer him long-term protection."

Dr Masari, who heads the fundamentalist Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, arrived in Britain from Saudi Arabia in 1994. His allegations of corruption and calls for a peaceful transition to Islamic rule in his country have infuriated the Saudi royal family.

Stephen Richards, counsel for the Home Office, said the Dominicans were angry about the arrangement Britain and Dominica had come to over the dissident but their anger was not directed at Dr Masari personally. The hearing continues.

Canon warns cathedral of bankruptcy danger

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL faces bankruptcy if its congregation does not give more, according to its senior clergy. In a stark warning in next month's cathedral newsletter, *Chapter & Verse*, the treasurer says that the cathedral is living beyond its means and could go under in five years "if we don't do something about our finances — and do it speedily."

He says that there is no "pot of gold" and, even when all possible savings are made, the cathedral will still be in the red. If the congregation does not give more, he says, the only option will be job losses or even bankruptcy.

Sheffield is one of many cathedrals in financial difficulty because of cuts in grants from the Church Commissioners, who manage the £2.4 billion assets of the Church of England. Its portfolio was reduced by millions of pounds in the 1980s property market crash.

Canon Christopher Smith, writing in *Chapter & Verse*, says: "As canon treasurer I have to let you know that our financial situation here is not good. In fact, it is very worrying." He says he is preparing for a working deficit of £40,000 this year, a similar picture to last year, and at the present rate the cathedral's capital reserves will be exhausted in five years.

Canon Smith warns of stark choices facing the cathedral. "We either continue upon our present course — that way leads to bankruptcy. Or we radically cut our expenditure — that leads to redundancies, and a reduced service to diocese and city. Or we raise more, income dramatically — that leads to maintaining the status quo."

The cathedral employs 15 people, including two secretaries, four vergers, one master of music and one assistant master of music. One vergers said: "It is a busy place. I can't see it functioning with fewer people. You never think of redundancies in the Church. You tend

to regard it as different to industry. They want to increase income, but if they can't they'll have to cut costs somewhere along the line."

The commissioners' grant has been cut by £10,000 over three years while donations remain static and costs rise. Sheffield Cathedral, which provides breakfasts for the homeless and unemployed, has a parish of 600 people, but a negligible proportion of these worship there each Sunday. About 350 attend church on Sunday, but most are from outside the parish.

Sheffield is one of the nine poorest cathedrals in the country, with a tourist income of less than £10,000. All nine of the poorest are, like Sheffield, parish church cathedrals, founded since the latter part of the 19th century and incorporating existing parishes and congregations.

Sheffield Cathedral is a popular resting place for shoppers and city workers looking for an oasis of peace during the day. The Very Rev Ray

Furnell, Dean of York and chairman of the Association of English Cathedrals, said: "Many cathedrals are working to a deficit budget." He said some were being forced to cash in legacies and assets to pay the bills. His former cathedral at Bury St Edmunds is another facing financial difficulties this year.

David Cockram, a stockbroker and cathedral warden at St Edmundsbury, which has applied for millennium funding to complete urgent building work, said the cathedral was budgeting for a deficit of £50,000 this year because of the cuts in grants from the commissioners. The cathedral made a healthy profit last year.

The accounts at Bradford Cathedral, which is the country's least well-endowed and which had a slight deficit last year, are expected to be back in the black this year. David Barker, lay treasurer, said: "We just about break even, but we have to be careful. We have a very generous congregation."

Lottery lure hits charities

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CHURCH leaders have expressed concern about the effect of the National Lottery on charities, after a report disclosed that voluntary giving had fallen to its lowest level since the lottery was launched.

A spokesman for the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, said that he was "concerned that donations to things such as *The Week's Good Cause* on BBC Radio 4 are not jeopardised. He fears that many people wrongly believe that when they buy a lottery ticket, some of their money is going to the kind of charity it does not seem to be going to."

The Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Philip Goodrich, said it would be very sad

if the nation lost its tradition of charitable giving. "I don't want always to sound like a Jeremiah," the bishop said. "I have no doubt the lottery will make contributions to community funds and I hope that voluntary societies will benefit. But it does have to be consistent."

Large voluntary societies have considerable numbers of professional staff on contracts and cannot cope with this unless their income is consistent and assured."

The NOP survey for the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, showed that, compared with 1992 and 1993, the proportion of those giving to charity fell by 13 per cent in December and by 11 per cent in January. Of those polled, 64

per cent gave to charity in January, the month when there were two double rollover jackpots in excess of £40 million. This was the lowest proportion the council had recorded since the first National Lottery draw in November 1994.

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Arms to Iraq: Ministers' behaviour attacked in the Commons but defended in the Lords

Cook condemns Government that 'knows no shame'

BY JAMES LANDALE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

ROBIN COOK accused ministers yesterday of acting without shame over the Scott report.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary rounded on members of the Cabinet, particularly the Prime Minister, for their continual denunciation of Labour's position on the arms-to-Iraq affair. Referring to John Major's claim three years ago that accusations that Parliament had been misled were "scurrilous", Mr Cook said: "Far from being scurrilous it was entirely accurate."

He added: "This is not just a Government that knows not how to accept blame. It is a Government that knows no shame."

He made the accusation during a six-hour Commons debate in which Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, announced government proposals concerning ministerial accountability and the way in which information on arms sales is given to MPs.

Mr Lang said that the Government accepted Sir Richard Scott's criticisms over the distribution of intelligence material and over export controls and licensing procedures. Ministers were prepared to accept Sir Richard's request for a re-examination of the long-standing practice that ministers do not answer parliamentary questions on defence sales.

The Government had now published a document setting out the present rules on how Parliament is informed about arms exports, he said. Ministers would consider what changes needed to be made and bring forward proposals to the Commons.

Mr Lang also asked the Public Service Select Committee to extend its investigation into the accountability of government agencies to cover ministers.

On the role of Customs and Excise in the affair, Mr Lang said the Government accepted the need for greater supervision by the Attorney-General's office of Customs and Excise prosecutions in relation to export control matters.

He accused Mr Cook of misleading the country by claiming that the Government armed Saddam Hussein and conspired to let innocent men go to prison. Both charges are completely rejected by the report, he said.

"He now tries vindictively and contemptuously to shift his ground in order to continue

his odious smear campaign," Mr Lang said, adding that Mr Cook was unfit to be trusted either by the House or by any foreign country.

Mr Lang said that the legal advice on public interest immunity (PII) certificates given by the Attorney-General in the Matrix Churchill trial was correct at the time. However, the Government would consider the report's recommendations on PII in light of developing case law and Sir Richard's view that time was opportune for "collective reappraisal by ministers".

Mr Lang accused Labour of selling lethal weapons to Iran and Argentina during the late 1970s, whereas the Scott affair concerned only parts of military-related equipment.

But Mr Cook said that Mr Lang had failed to suggest specific proposals in the light of the Scott report. "What I do find surprising is that, now having had 18 days to study the report, you still could produce no proposal as to what might be done to strengthen ministerial accountability."

The whole affair had underlined the need for a freedom of information act. "It was secrecy that made this scandal possible. The five volumes of

the Scott report provide the firmest foundation yet of the case for a freedom of information act."

The public would see the contrast between the Government's reaction to the Scott report and its persistent lecturing to parents, teachers and councils that they had to take responsibility. "Yet when it comes to themselves, suddenly not a single minister can be found to accept responsibility for what went wrong."

Mr Cook was interrupted persistently by Tory backbenchers who accused him of wrongly claiming that arms, rather than weapon-making machinery, had been sold to Iraq. He said: "Our case was always that he was going to use those machine-tools to turn out the shells to fire... some of which may well have been fired at British forces in the Gulf War."

He continued: "Sir Richard paints a scandalous picture of the failure of intelligence reports in Whitehall to reach those who needed the information — though I notice once again that no minister is going to take responsibility for that." Mr Cook accused ministers of "turning a deaf ear" to intelligence warnings that machine tools were being used to equip Iraqi weapons factories.

Mr Cook appealed to Tory MPs to vote against the Government. "They should not look at tonight's vote as to whether or not it is a defeat for the Government, they should look on it as a vote which will decide the quality of the democracy in which we live."

If Tory MPs backed the Government, they would convince the public that it was an arrogant Government that had been in power too long to remember that it was accountable to the people. Parliament could not ignore the findings of the Scott report that MPs were "designedly misled" and that ministers had "consistently failed in their duty of accountability to the House".

Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, took the unusual step of intervening in a debate opened by a Cabinet colleague as he rejected Mr Cook's claims that ministers had tried to prevent a fair trial of businessmen charged with breaking export laws over the sale of arms to Iraq. He denounced "hollow and synthetic allegations" by Mr Cook.

Leading article, page 15



Lang: accepted some of Scott's criticisms



Heseltine: denounced 'hollow' allegations



Robin Cook arriving at the Commons for yesterday's debate on the Scott report

Sick and injured put party's welfare first

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE whips spent most of yesterday frantically trying to ensure that sick and injured MPs would turn up for the vote.

Terry Patchett, Labour MP for Barnsley East, who has been seriously ill with cancer for several months, was making the journey to Westminster by ambulance although he had earlier been described as too ill to travel. He was expected to be "nodded through", a practice that enables sick MPs to vote without having to walk through the division lobby.

David Jamieson (Lab, Plymouth Devonport), who had a heart operation only last week — "it was just short of a bypass" one whip said — also agreed to turn up, as did John Fraser (Lab, Norwich). Mr Fraser amazed MPs in December when he arrived in a

neck brace, after a bad car crash, to help Labour to defeat the Government over the common fisheries policy. He had an operation on his neck last week but was planning to make his own way to the Commons last night. In December he came straight from hospital by bus.

Other walking wounded Labour MPs due to attend included Terry Lewis (Worsley) Mark Redmond (Don Valley) and Jimmy Dummachie (Glasgow Pollock) — all of whom have been away ill for some time.

Tory business managers had ensured that Sir Julian Critchley (Aldershot) was safely escorted in Westminster in his wheelchair hours before the vote was announced. The Tory whips claimed that all their other backbenchers were "fitting fit" and no MP was

paired with the Opposition. Each whip's office, however, was feeding as much misinformation to the other as possible in the hope of creating maximum confusion.

The Tory whips were particularly relieved to hear that a party of four MPs — three Tory and one Labour — had returned late on Sunday night from a business trip to the Falkland Islands. They had been warned to be back on time.

In December the Labour whips were furious when they found that at least three of their MPs had gone abroad without notifying them and failed to return for the fishing vote. This time both parties had enough time — ten days' notice — to gather their troops. A Health Select Committee trip to Bonn arranged for this week was postponed.

Guidelines were reinterpreted but not changed, says Thatcher

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

BARONESS THATCHER came to the aid of the Government with a robust defence of its policy in the arms-to-Iraq affair.

In her first public comment since the report was published, she told peers that there had been no change in government guidelines on the export of defence-related equipment to Iraq in the late 1980s when she was Prime Minister. "If there was no change in the guidelines — and there was not — then the question of deliberately misleading the House does not arise," she said.

Speaking to a packed Upper Chamber, Baroness Thatcher gave her full support to William Waldegrave, who was once her Foreign Office minister, and to Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General. She said: "I am sure there was never any intent to mislead on the part of Mr Waldegrave or any other ministers and Sir Richard Scott himself concludes there was no duplicitous intent."

She strongly disagreed with Sir Richard that guidelines had been "surprisingly changed" in 1988-1989 and this had not been reported to Parliament. "Sir Richard's report shows there were discussions among junior ministers and officials about possible evolution of the guidelines in 1988-89. I was not aware of those discussions at the time but I would not expect to be told every detail of the handling of the guidelines."

The guidelines were what their title implied — a guide to officials. The injunction against selling weapons was scrupulously observed and there was an element of flexibility only for dealing with non-lethal equipment.

"The interpretation of the guidelines evolved to keep pace with these developments without any need to change the guidelines themselves. On border-line cases, the Scott report clearly shows ministers and officials exercising enormous care in trying to reach decisions."

She supported several eminent judges who spoke in the Lords in support of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General. Lord Lloyd of Berwick, one of the law Lords, was cheered for an eloquent speech, defending Sir Nicholas's decision to use the public interest immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill trial. He said that according to legal

precedent, Sir Nicholas had no choice but to insist on the PII certificates. It was then up to the trial judge whether or not to uphold the orders.

But Labour and Liberal Democrat peers criticised the Government, accusing ministers of deception and demanding Mr Waldegrave's resignation for "misleading Parliament deliberately, designedly and intentionally".

Lord Richard, the Labour peers' leader, said: "It is frankly breathtaking that he remains in office. Ministers lied to Parliament and apparently no-one is responsible. Defendants were placed in jeopardy and apparently no-one is responsible. Someone is responsible and they should accept that responsibility and face up to it."

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, a former Labour Home Secretary, said: "I regard the



Trefgarne denied misleading Parliament

Government's grossly partisan handling of the publication of the report as being almost as reprehensible as the evil that Scott was inquiring into. It is a compounding of sins... 'Never in my experience has there been a more cynical handling of a major report produced at its own request by a British government.'

Lord Trefgarne, one of the three ministers accused of misleading the House, defended his position. "The guidelines were not changed but we asked for them to be interpreted more flexibly in the light of the rapidly changing situation at the time... having attended the same school as John McCarthy I took great interest in the changes," he said. To change the guidelines would have needed approval from senior members of the Cabinet. "I regret tonight that I misled Parliament."

Lang's conciliatory tone would have sounded better last week

The Scott report is one of those secondary, but highly symbolic, issues that do governments immense damage without themselves being decisive. The net effect of the arguments of the past ten days has been to reinforce the image of a tired and shifty administration which is trying to bluster its way out of an embarrassing position. The details will be forgotten by the next election, but it will feed into a general public impression that it is time for a change.

The Government's tactics all along have been to get rid of the issue as quickly as possible. Ministers' initial attempt to claim

that they had been acquitted of the most serious charges saw them through the first Commons exchanges but quickly began to unravel when the full extent of Sir Richard Scott's criticisms became apparent. This was apparent in the Commons yesterday.

Ian Lang made the speech he should have given as a statement ten days ago. It was a solid defensive performance. He admitted that the Government had made mistakes and accepted many of the Scott report's detailed proposals on export control guidelines and prosecution procedures. He also promised to consult about openness on arms sales and

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ministerial accountability, though all he offered was good intentions rather than specific proposals. It is now up to Parliament, and its select committees, to pin down the Government.

But Mr Lang's conciliatory tone would have sounded better a week ago. Yesterday it looked like a desperate attempt to shore up votes. Ministers looked very unhappy as they faced a powerful attack by Robin Cook as he remarked in language worthy of Disraeli in one of his most

waspy assaults on Peel. "Suddenly we have a row of limpets stuck to the Treasury benches. Most Tory MPs dislike Mr Cook personally, but they respect his formidable abilities as a debater. They would not like to be prosecuted by him."

On the core issue of arms supplies to Iraq, the Government has a reasonable, if at times evasive, case. It, and particularly William Waldegrave, then a Foreign Office minister, opposed selling lethal equipment to Iraq. By comparison with other countries, the British record is grey rather than black. Baroness Thatcher was right to claim in the

Lords yesterday that the basic guidelines remained unchanged until a formal relaxation was considered in July 1990, just before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But there was an attempt to interpret the guidelines more flexibly over the sale of machine tools and the like which could be used to make lethal arms. And ministers and civil servants did mislead Parliament about this desire for greater flexibility.

That is the heart of the matter — an insidious belief in Whitehall that MPs and the public could not be told of this shift in emphasis. But there was no great

conspiracy. It is not a big scandal of government failure — say by comparison with the poll tax — but it is revealing about the desire of ministers to keep possibly embarrassing developments secret.

That led both to the seven separate instances of ministerial breaches of the accountability rules in *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* identified by the Scott report and also to the confusion over the Matrix Churchill prosecution.

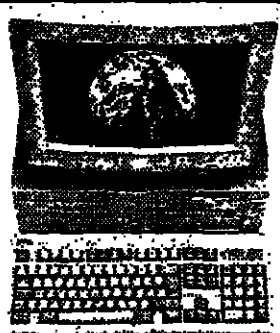
The Government has been tarnished, no matter how vigorously ministers protest their good

faith. Sir Richard Scott largely accepts that their sincerity. It is ministers' competence and candour that is in doubt. The boost to Tory morale a few weeks ago over the Harrier Harass affair has now evaporated as a result of the Scott row and the further evidence of the Government's vulnerability in the Commons.

Tory fortunes may be improving in the country as living standards recover, but this is not matched at Westminster where the mood of MPs remains fractious and fragile.

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Germans hold two terror suspects

By Roger Boyes

GERMAN police appeared yesterday to have scored their first big success against a terrorist group that has been targeting politicians and political offices.

Two men were detained near Hamburg on suspicion of taking part in bomb attacks and belonging to a left-wing extremist group, the Anti-Imperialist Cell. Explosives were found in their car. One man lives in a flat near the large British army base in Moenchengladbach.

The Anti-Imperialist Cell appears to be made up of relatively young terrorists who disagreed with the decision taken in 1992 by the Red Army Faction, which was generally acknowledged to be the heirs to the Baader-Meinhof gang, to renounce violence.

However, the cell has been bombing mainly the offices and homes of second-league politicians, including Joseph Theodor Blank, a Christian Democrat deputy, and Volker Kötter, the former Christian Democrat junior minister.

Security sources describe them as "weekend terrorists". They have never struck on a weekday, suggesting that they have regular Monday-to-Friday jobs.

The Red Army Faction lived underground, constantly changed flats and depended on a wide net of sympathisers for money, false documents and getaway cars.

One theory is that the cell is essentially a group of about thirty well-educated men and women, living mainly in the Ruhr region and perhaps teaching in schools or universities there. Their lack of a formal terrorist hierarchy has made them particularly difficult to catch.

Bonn anger deepens over criticism by Washington

By Roger Boyes in Bonn

GERMANY is becoming increasingly irritated by criticism from the United States over Europe's handling of the Bosnian crisis. Helmut Kohl's apparent election boost for President Yeltsin and Bonn's fledgling attempts to forge a European defence identity.

The friction became obvious at the weekend when an unnamed "senior diplomat" briefed German journalists about the differences on Bosnia between the European Union and the United States. Observers believe that the diplomat must have been Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, or somebody who knows intimately Kinkel's private concerns. Bonn's worry is that the Clinton Administration will exploit American foreign policy for electoral gain over the coming months.

The "senior diplomat" told the Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung that America was misrepresenting its achievements in Bonn, declaring that the military implementation of the Dayton accord was proceeding well (thanks to America) while the civilian effort was faltering. Washington should remember that both military and civilian tasks in Bosnia were "the responsibility of the same group of states". Europe was supplying more troops than America. It was not right for Washington to criticise Carl Bildt, the High Representative, because his efforts to reconstruct the economy and society of Bosnia were dependent on donor states. The EU had made its financial contribution, the diplomat said, but America had not.

Herr Kinkel visited Mostar ten days ago, but Bonn's irritation with the American attitude predates that trip. The Germans were as annoyed as the British when Richard Hol-

brooke, the former US mediator, accused Europe of "sleeping through the Bosnian crisis". There has also been criticism about German policy towards Russia before, during and after the German leader's visit to Moscow last week. The Clinton Administration viewed the visit as German election support for Mr Yeltsin.

Other sources of friction between the United States and Germany include: □ Germany's eagerness to offer Russia a full seat in the Group of Seven club of industrial nations. America wants to retain the present G7-plus-one arrangement.

□ Bonn's enthusiasm for extending the Control Group on Bosnia — Britain, France, Germany, America and Russia — to other spheres. The Clinton Administration fears Moscow could become a blocking force in global management.

□ Bonn is pressing for a high-level Nato session in Berlin in early June. Washington, by contrast, wants to muddle talk about Nato's eastward enlargement until after a new Russian President is elected that month.

□ Despite a plainly pro-German bias in the higher echelons of the Administration, there is American nervousness about Franco-German plans to "Europeanise" Nato. American diplomats say Washington has nothing in principle against a European defence identity, but much depends on how that identity is shaped at the coming inter-governmental conference.

□ Brussels: Hans Koschnick, the EU administrator in Mostar, resigned yesterday, but said he would stay on until the EU mandate in the divided Croat-Muslim city expired in July if a replacement was not found. (Reuters)



Isabelle Adjani, left, and Sharon Stone in a scene from new version of *Les Diaboliques*, filmed in Pittsburgh

Director's widow moves to ban Sharon Stone film from Cannes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE widow of the great French film-maker Henri-Georges Clouzot has announced she will sue over an American version of her husband's 1955 classic *Les Diaboliques*, claiming that it was made without her permission.

The film, starring Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani, is due to be released at the Cannes Film Festival in May but Inès Clouzot claims she owns the rights to all her late husband's work and was not consulted about the remake.

"I learned the Americans were filming *Les Diaboliques* from a press clipping at my hairdresser's," Mme Clouzot said. "Nobody warned me. I am the sole beneficiary of the rights to my husband's works, so the producer has acted completely illegally."

On Sunday night Ms Stone, a cult figure in France who was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters in October, weighed in on Mme Clouzot's side, declaring she was "ashamed to be associated with a production which appears to have been carried out in an improper way".

She told French television: "I hope that Mme Clouzot will be correctly compensated and treated properly." Ms Stone, who is in France to promote

her latest film, *Casino*, said that she was told before she began filming that Mme Clouzot had been paid.

Mme Clouzot, the second wife of the film-maker, insists she was offered only a "handful of dollars" by the Americans. She has retained a French and an American law-

yer and plans to take her case to the French Ministry of Culture to prevent the film from being released. "Too bad for the Cannes festival," she told the newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche*.

In the new film, Ms Stone stars in the part played by Simone Signoret while Mme

Adjani co-stars in the role played by Vera Clouzot, the director's first wife, who died of a heart attack soon after the film was completed.

The American version, shot in secrecy over three months in Ms Stone's hometown of Pittsburgh at a cost of \$30 million (£19 million), marks the first time the two top female stars of French and American cinema have worked together.

"In fact, our film, which will be called *Diabolique*, is a completely original version," Morgan Creek, the producer, claimed. Mme Clouzot, however, says she has a fax from the American producers expressing Warner Brothers' pleasure at making *Les Diaboliques* after the film by her husband.

The American film's director, Jeremiah Chechik, has also acknowledged his debt to the original masterpiece, while maintaining: "This is not a remake."

Clouzot, who died in 1977, was inspired by a novel to which he bought the rights. Those rights have since been purchased by the American film-makers, but Mme Clouzot insists that her husband's film bore little relation to the book and has its own copyright.



A poster for the 1955 classic directed by Clouzot

EUROPE SUMMARY

French attack on Brittan

Brussels: France launched a blistering attack on the European Commission yesterday, accusing it of blindly trying to negotiate free trade deals with the whole world.

"It was a furious attack on the Commission and on Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan," one Swedish diplomat told reporters during a meeting of European Union foreign ministers.

The attack was launched by Pierre de Boissieu, France's EU Ambassador, after Michel Barnier, the European Affairs Minister, tactfully left the room, diplomats said. (Reuters)

Claims disturb Menem's visit

Paris: New claims about the murder of two French nuns during Argentina's "dirty war" cast a shadow over the start of President Menem's visit to France (Ben Macintyre writes). An Argentine officer, Captain Adolfo Scilingo, said the nuns, who vanished in 1977, had been thrown into Rio de la Plata Bay.

The nuns were abducted by Captain Alfredo Astiz. A French court condemned him to life imprisonment in absentia. He was ordered into retirement two months ago.

Russian troops quit Ingushetia

Sleptsovo: Russian troops pulled out of the southern region of Ingushetia after local leaders accused them of spreading the war from Chechnya. Forces, including light tanks, crossed the border after leaving positions around Ingush mountain villages. Russian Aushiev, the Ingush regional president, convened his security council at the weekend; it condemned the troop presence. (Reuters)

Palme killer 'will never be found'

Ten years after the assassination of Olof Palme, the detective leading the hunt for the late Prime Minister's killer said Sweden would probably have to come to terms with the murder never being solved (Michael Binyon writes). Hans Olvebro said several key witnesses and potential suspects had died.

Albania blast

Tirana: President Berisha of Albania accused former Communist secret police agents of responsibility for a car bomb explosion near a supermarket here which killed three people in the first terrorist act for generations. (AP)

Quinn to be a father at 80

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BONN



THE 80-year-old actor Anthony Quinn is to be a father for the 13th time, he told the *Bild* newspaper in its edition yesterday. The child will be a boy, he said.

Quinn, left, who also has a two-year-old daughter, Antonia, told the paper that he agreed to have the baby, which is due in July, after his 33-year-old companion, Kathy Benvin, convinced him it would be a good idea.

"She told me 'when you're gone, I won't have anything to remember you by', and so with the children she keeps a part of me." The secret to his good health was a regular diet of salads, long walks, no smoking and no drinking, the actor said.

He added that his biggest regret was not marrying his first love at the age of 18 because he was too young. She was 36.



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Peres blamed for bloodshed as paranoia over suicide attacks grips Jerusalem

Driver killed as fearful Jews fire on skidding car

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TWO more people died in Jerusalem yesterday — victims of the nervous paranoia that has gripped Israel — just as some of the 25 Jewish victims of Sunday's suicide bombings were being buried amid heart-rending scenes of national grief.

Fearful that a skidding Fiat car was making another suicide attack, armed civilians opened fire and killed an Arab-American driver. The car hit and killed a pedestrian at a bus stop. But the driver who died, had, it appears, simply lost control of his hire car. Twenty-two people were injured in the incident.

Whatever the truth, many Israelis remain convinced that it was another attack on Jews. One man present claimed that the driver had shouted the Islamic war cry "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greater), although others could not substantiate this. Israel Radio issued warnings about the use of firearms by ordinary citizens — many of whom are legally armed — and claimed that at least one of the wounded was hit in the wild burst of gunfire.

The incident served to further intensify already dangerously high feelings that have seen political support plummet for Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister. At the same time, calls for his murder — not heard since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin last November — are again being made by right-wing extremists who blame him for the renewed shedding of Jewish blood.

A poll published in the mass-circulation Tel Aviv daily, *Yediot Aharonot*, in the wake of Sunday's carnage, inflicted by Hamas terrorists disguised as Jews, showed the gap narrowing between Mr Peres and his main right-wing rival Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader.

Last week in the race for Prime Minister, Mr Peres had a 15 point lead. That is now

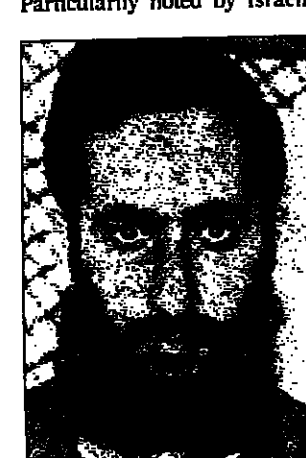
down to three points. The election has been called for May 29.

The paper also published individual photographs of the Israeli victims across its front page under the banner headline: "The Heart Breaks".

Shocked government officials tried to play down the significance of the poll, the first since the twin outrages in Jerusalem and the seaside town of Ashkelon. But ordinary Israelis support the findings of the respected Dahaf Institute, which conducted the survey. "Hamas is doing the Likud's work for them. That is obvious to anyone," Shimon Asulin, a bank employee said.

Uri Dromi, the chief of the Government Press Office, struggled to put a more optimistic spin on the slump in backing for Mr Peres. "In the long range, I think [public opinion] will change again because people will ask themselves what is the alternative to the peace process," he said.

But the right-wing *Jerusalem Post* summed up the gloomy and despairing mood that has gripped the country following the attacks, which have demonstrated increasing organisational ability on behalf of the suicide bombers. Particularly noted by Israeli



Al-Sharif: number one suspect for bombings

security experts was the ability of Hamas terror squads to mount simultaneous attacks, and thus maximise the effect of their campaign in a small country where almost every citizen has some family connection with the victims. According to Israeli security services the Hamas organiser of the bombings has been identified. Army radio reports named him as Mohieddin al-Sharif, an electrician from the West Bank town of Hebron.

"Even in this Orwellian age, Israel cannot go on for long believing that peace and terrorism are compatible," the paper argued alongside a grisly cartoon showing two men looking at the charred skeleton of Sunday's blown-up commuter bus, with one saying cynically to the other: "If this is the new Middle East, it certainly looks a lot like the old one." The caption was an acid reference to claims by Mr Peres that the peace deal is in the process of transforming the region.

The embattled Prime Minister, who is claimed by diplomatic sources to have been warned that many more attempted attacks can be expected until polling day, is being vilified not only for his general peace policy, but also for permitting the latest closure of the Occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to be lifted only 48 hours before the bombers struck with such deadly effect.

The site near Jerusalem's central bus station where the worse attack took place has been transformed into an anti-government shrine, as well as a place of commemoration for the victims.

"We are a stupid people," one woman told a man during one of the hundreds of impassioned debates taking place. "They murder us and we are silent — just like in the Holocaust."

"A nation steeped in pain — God will avenge the blood that has been spilled," said one Hebrew message.



Students at a Jerusalem high school stand in silence at the start of classes yesterday in memory of the victims. Three were former pupils

Israel mourns as families bury their dead

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

RAIN, mixed with tears rolled off the faces of mourners at funerals for the victims of Sunday's Jerusalem suicide bus bombing yesterday.

Soldiers, friends and government ministers huddled in the cold and wet at Mount Herzl cemetery to witness the burial of Yonatan Barnea.

His father, Nahum Barnea, an Israeli journalist, had rushed to the scene of the explosion to cover the event, without first knowing that his son, a 22-year-old soldier, had died in the blast.

A writer who had covered suicide bombings in the past, Mr Barnea wrote of the last bus explosion in Jerusalem in August last year: "This slice of reality is a single mass, inhuman, unbelievable. Parts of clothing, blood, human organs spread out, dozens of metres. Bodies covered by blankets. People searching for their loved ones."

In an article published by his newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*, yesterday, it was reported that on Sunday "Nahum Barnea set out to cover another horrible tragedy — he departed not knowing that his loved one, Yonatan was already lying under one of those blankets."

On his way back to his office in Tel Aviv, Mr Barnea recounted how he had premonitions that his son was on the bus, only to be informed that police

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, and his efforts to make peace with the Palestinians. "Peres go home quickly," read one. "I don't want to be next in line," read another. Somebody went as far as to write: "Death to Peres," but the words were quickly crossed out.

Danny Benita, an 18-year-old high school student, summed up the feel-

fives said she had recently collected her wedding gown.

Just hours before the funeral, her mother, Ruth Ayyash, 43, wailed: "Instead of getting ready for your wedding, we are getting ready for your funeral. Why? What did she do? What was her sin?"

Miss Ayyash had left home on Sunday shortly before 6am on her way to her defence force base. She was about to be discharged and was only going back to return some equipment and say goodbye to her friends.

She was given a lift to Ashkelon and was standing next to the suicide bomber at the bus stop when he triggered the blast. She died instantly.

Her mother added: "Two weeks ago, my husband Michael lost his mother, a year ago his father. Now, he is burying a daughter."

The Ayyash family has experienced previous tragedies. They used to live in Afula, in the north of the country, where Hoffit had been a good friend of Leah Gabbai. She was killed by an axe-wielding Palestinian about a year ago.

Instead of getting ready for your wedding, we are getting ready for your funeral. Why? What did my daughter do? What was her sin?

had identified Yonatan's body at the scene.

Away from the funerals, at the actual site of the bus bombing in Jerusalem yesterday, dozens of Israelis gathered and arranged memorial candles on the footpath to spell *maspik*, the Hebrew word for enough.

On a blank white banner, some stopped to scrawl messages attacking

ings of some of those present. "The peace process does not work."

The sorrow and anger was no less evident yesterday at Ashdod, on Israel's southern coast. There mourners gathered for the burial of Hoffit Ayyash, 20, who was killed in the second deadly blast at a bus stop in the nearby city of Ashkelon. She was to be married in four months' time. Rela-

Saddam looks to Stalin for his lessons in terror

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FROM the moment he seized power, President Saddam Hussein has consciously modelled himself on Stalin. In summarily executing his two sons-in-law on their return from Jordan, he has copied Stalin's techniques of duplicity and cruelty on such a scale that not even members of his family could believe.

Diplomats say that nobody in Iraq is safe. Western governments use the latest evidence of his brutality and mendacity to underline their refusal to have any dealings with the dictator or relax the sanctions. Even fellow Arab governments have hinted their calls for a more conciliatory line towards Baghdad.

Saddam has long used terror as an instrument of policy, to intimidate rivals, quash dissent and cow an entire nation. Like Stalin, he orders pre-emptive purges, especially of people who apparently are loyal servants of the regime, to create a climate of fear and paranoia. The killing of the innocent is a deliberate tactic and, by picking out for execution men who fail to applaud him or loud enough at rallies, he sets one Iraqi against another in their zeal to denounce "traitors".

Stalin is not the only model. Saddam is a modern Caligula: insecure, sadistic and steeped in blood. He killed his first man when he was 15. He has personally eliminated rivals, including those who pose no threat at present but who may do so in the future. He does not hesitate to kill his own family if he believes they threaten his dominance.

In 1989, in the wake of the Iran-Iraq war, he had his wife's brother, Adnan Khalilullah, assassinated in a helicopter "accident". His brother

Wathban, a former Minister of the Interior, was seriously wounded in a similarly inexplicable shooting accident and has been under house arrest since his recovery.

His behaviour is particularly shocking to an Arab society, where honour and family loyalty are valued qualities. Saddam has played ruthlessly on this horror of dishonouring relations. Often it is the parents or children of those he has had arrested and condemned to death, who have been obliged to carry out the killings under threat of wholesale execution of the entire family if they refuse. Indeed, that was probably why the relations of the two defectors opened fire when they returned home.

Few Arabs are surprised at their shooting, only at the speed of it. The scale of their betrayal had humiliated him. Iraqis in exile are now asking whether Saddam's daughters can escape punishment.

More bloodily, Dr Latif Rashid, vice-president of the Iraqi National Congress, an opposition group, predicts that Saddam will kill his grandchildren, lest they grow up to avenge their fathers' deaths.



Saddam: had killed his first man by the age of 15

Army guilty of Tamil murders

FROM VUJITHA YAPA IN COLOMBO

A MILITARY court in Sri Lanka investigating the killing of 24 Tamil villagers in the island's Eastern province earlier this month said yesterday that 14 soldiers were guilty and should be punished.

The massacre happened in the village of Kumarpuram in the Kilveled district near the port city of Trincomalee. Thirteen children and a pregnant woman were among those killed; 25 people were seriously injured.

The deaths occurred soon after two soldiers were killed when secessionist Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked an army post near the village. The massacre is the first reported since President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's People's Alliance Government, which has the support of all the Tamil parties in parliament, came to power 16 months ago.

The incident was first denied by the army and has been a source of embarrassment to the Government. The army has gone out of its way to look after civilians in the Northern and Eastern provinces in an effort to minimise the influence of the Tamil Tigers. The soldiers involved are privates and lance corporals.

Barrage disrupts Sierra Leone polling

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

A SALVO of rocket-propelled grenades wrecked multiparty elections in Sierra Leone's second town of Bo yesterday, forcing all but two of the 55 polling stations to close, residents said.

Elsewhere, missing lists of candidates added an element of farce to the polls — the country's first multiparty elections in three decades — which are already a hostage of civil war, cannibalism, and an army propped up by South African mercenaries.

Long queues formed at polling stations while voters waited for the arrival of the lists. The Electoral Commission promised that the 1.6 million registered voters would get their chance to cast their ballots in an extended day of voting.

But more remarkable, as no truce has been reached in a five-year civil war with the murky Revolutionary United Front,

which practices cannibalism to instil fear in its enemies and courage in its fighters, is that American and British diplomats pressured the military Government of Brigadier-General Julius Maada Bio into holding the elections at all.

"The restoration of civilian democratic rule offers the best chance of peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone... We feared that a delay in holding the elections would mean they could be postponed indefinitely and donor support would evaporate," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

More than 30 per cent of the population in the former British colony has been displaced by the civil war. Travel by road outside the capital is like playing Russian roulette as convoys are attacked by the Revolutionary United Front, their own military escorts, or bandits.

Last week 20 villagers were beheaded by unknown gunmen in a village close to Freetown, and over the weekend fighting, again between unknown militias, broke out in Bo. Since 1991 at least 10,000 people have died in the civil war which has crippled Sierra Leone's economy.

Brigadier Bio came to power six weeks ago, forcing out Captain Valentine Strasser who toppled his predecessor Joseph Momoh in 1992 during an army pay dispute.
□ Malabo: Todorob Obiang Nguema, Equatorial Guinea's ex-military ruler, took almost all the votes in the two main towns in the country's first multiparty presidential polls, according to partial results from an election boycotted by all three main opposition parties. Turnout in the capital Malabo was said to be 76 per cent. (AFP)

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Living in the shadow of asthma Edwina's fight for breath

DESPITE her fast-talking reputation, Edwina Currie, MP, knows what it is to have trouble drawing breath. She has suffered from asthma since childhood — although it now needs no more treatment than an occasional puff from her Ventolin inhaler.

Asthma dominates the lifestyle of one in four of those who suffer from it. Mrs Currie's own school-days were affected by her asthma but she turned it to her advantage while others were involved in the kind of vigorous exercise that made her condition worse, she used the time to read avidly — a practice that stood her in good stead at Oxford and in politics.



DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

The National Asthma Campaign today releases the results of a widespread survey of Britain's asthma sufferers. Its report, *Impact of Asthma*, reveals the many different ways in which asthma can affect a patient's life. Despite improvements in treatment, half the patients with asthma still display some symptoms every day, and one in ten is disturbed every night.

Fortunately many asthmatic children grow out of it entirely — or it becomes very much less severe — as they reach adulthood. One third of children, for instance, have their sleep ruined at least once a week by coughing, breathlessness or wheezing. And whereas 80 per cent of young sufferers find that vigorous exercise induces wheezing, only 50 per cent of adults are affected.

A surprisingly small number of patients, only 6 per cent, are completely unaffected by exercise. Her lingering asthma does not, for instance, deter Edwina Currie from attending her gym twice a week. Research some years ago showed that routine exercise, as when an athlete was training, was more

likely to induce asthma than competitive sport, when presumably the flow of adrenalin is increased. Patients who suffered exercise-induced asthma were also likely to wheeze when exposed to cold air.

The National Asthma Campaign has studied the effects of various forms of pollution. Chicken feathers, for example, are one of the allergens that can induce Mrs Currie's asthma. Sixty per cent of patients with asthma are made worse by exposure to tobacco smoke. Fortunately for those sufferers affected by smoke and who have ambitions to follow Mrs Currie's path to Westminster, the days when politics was discussed in smoke-filled rooms are disappearing. Sir Bernard Ingham, a trustee of the National Asthma Campaign who knows all about smoke-filled rooms, said: "I've had asthma since birth and know the control it can have over your life. But as I've grown older my condition has improved and so has its treatment."

PROBABLY the greatest advance in asthmatic treatment recently has been the realisation that the prophylactic use of inhaled steroids, such as Becotide, Pulmicort and Floxotide, do not cause serious side-effects. These preparations reduce the inflammation which is blocking the bronchial tubes. Ventolin, and similar bronchodilator drugs, are central first-aid measures and the majority of asthmatic patients should carry them everywhere, but they should not be relied upon for routine daily control.

The other valuable lesson learnt over the last few years is that steroids taken by mouth, or even injection, when breathing is very laboured can be a life-saving measure, and withholding them in the past must have cost many lives.

When home is a prison

As farmers prepare to spray their crops, thousands of people prepare for misery, says Jack Crossley

MARGARET REICHLIN is not looking forward to spring. She expects to spend quite a lot of it a prisoner in her own home. Unable to tend the garden at her centuries-old thatched cottage, banned from shopping trips and country walks around the richly arable Hampshire farmlands which surround her, Miss Reichlin, a retired arts teacher, is one of thousands of victims disabled by the modern use of chemicals and pesticides.

Her system became sensitised eight years ago when workmen botched the treatment of timber in her home in Upper Enham, near Andover. Now — and probably for the rest of her life — she is likely to suffer distressing reactions if exposed not only to toxic ingredients used in industry and agriculture, but to everyday things such as household disinfectants, traffic fumes and food additives.

"Fly sprays and creosote are murder," she says. Symptoms can include blotchy skin, sore throat, nose and eyes, swollen tongue, mouth blisters, stomach ache, exhaustion, and loss of memory and co-ordination.

Spraydrift is the invisible danger which threatens Miss Reichlin and thousands like her as farmers begin their springtime spraying operations. In the last three years she has identified 13 different chemicals being used to kill weeds and protect crops on farms bordering her home.

Many farmers have no idea what the chemicals are in the sprays they use, nor what damage they can do. Miss Reichlin had early battles with neighbouring farmer John North before training him to give warnings when he was going to spray.

"Now Mr North is as good as gold. He phones me in advance and I run for cover. Batten down the hatches.



Margaret Reichlin became sensitised to chemical sprays when workmen treated timber at her home: "Fly sprays and creosote are murder"

When the farm sprays are out chemically sensitised victims become hermits.

Miss Reichlin is campaigning to have sprays colour-dyed so that victims can recognise which fields have been sprayed. She also wants to stop the bodies which license the use of the offending chemicals also being the ones which police them.

She says: "The torrent of chemicals now poured on to good land is unstoppable and will continue to be so as long as the licensing bodies are also the policing bodies."

"Most of the problems caused by spraying would be remedied by the addition of

harmless, short-term dyes. The public would know where the sprayers had been. Dead wildlife would be identifiable."

Alan Carey of Leigh, Day & Co, a pioneering lawyer and a director of the Pesticides Trust, has dealt with 300 chemical and pesticide cases, settling most of them out of court.

Although it is now accepted that many people are sensitive to certain chemicals, there are still steep legal hills to climb before being able to prove in court that a client's suffering is caused by negligence. Many lawyers are reluctant to take on complex litigation involving chemicals and toxicology. The long names are enough to put some off: try getting your tongue round 1-(butylcarbamoyl) benzimidazol-2-yl-carbamate.

In some cases the chilling "acceptable risk statistic" argument is used, and Mr Carey is fighting this as totally unacceptable. "The Pesticide Exposure Group of Sufferers (Pegs) knows of thousands of sufferers and believes there are thousands more going unreported," he says.

"Legal cases involving exposure to pesticides are increasing with areas of concern including the liability of manufacturers, the inadequacy of government regulation and the lack of sufficient warnings to users."

"Pesticides are regulated by

The farmer phones me and I run for cover

licensed as 'safe' for public use. No long-term chronic ill-health studies are carried out as a matter of course by the six government departments empowered to grant licences.

"They react to complaints from the public — but one of the troubles here is that many GPs have little understanding of toxicology, and pesticide poisonings remain under-reported."

"By licensing a pesticide as safe the Government removes the consumer's right of choice. We have health warnings advising against smoking and doctors advising on the side-effect of drugs. This enables consumers to make informed decisions. But they cannot choose to avoid pesticides and pollutants which continue to be used despite concerns about damage to humans, animals and the environment."

"Industry makes profits from chemicals and society derives benefit from their use, but the time has come to face the consequences."

"I believe that there are victims who should be compensated without proof of fault. A scheme could be

financed by the makers and users of hazardous chemicals with a contribution from government. Perhaps the insurance houses would also contribute. The scheme would avoid the trauma of prolonged and expensive litigation."

In the meantime, as long as there are those who adopt shoddy practices and put health at risk, personal injury lawyers will be in full-time work and get richer. Too often employers give health and safety a low priority, leaving insurers to pick up the tab — and the victim to pay with ruined health."

The growing concern over pesticides is to be the focus of a three-day international seminar at Warwick University at the end of July, organised by the Green Network.

In the meantime campaigners like Margaret Reichlin are determined to give the plight of sufferers a much higher profile, and to increase public awareness of the dangers.

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Deaf to pain but not to insults

Have you ever thought what the nurses and doctors in the operating theatre might be saying about you as you lie exposed and vulnerable on the table?

A medical student recently described to me the rugby club banter about breast size and quality he heard an all-male surgical team engage in as they operated on a woman patient. And one hospital in the UK until recently broadcast the laboratory biopsy results about malignancy over a PA system into the operating theatre while the operation was still under way.

Still, this does not really matter, because after all you are unconscious, aren't you? Yes, you are — but your brain may still take in some of what you hear. An article in this month's edition of *Anaesthesia and Analgesia* reports that anaesthetised patients can learn information which they have no conscious memory of hearing. Half the patients in the study heard the story of *Robinson Crusoe* while they were unconscious, while the other half heard *Peter Pan*. Testing after they regained consciousness showed that the *Peter Pan* group had associations to the word "hook" which the *Robinson Crusoe* group did not. Neither group remembered hearing any story. In other words, these patients were taking in what they heard even though they were not conscious.

If this is true, then the incautious banter of doctors and nurses, not to mention the announcement of bad news in the theatre, may have bad effects on some patients. While modern hospital anaesthesia is so sophisticated that there is relatively little chance of anyone explicitly remembering anything that happened during surgery, it may not stop patients being affected by what they hear in theatre, even though they are not consciously aware of it.

The *Medical Journal of Australia* reports that a shy and sensitive student who thought she had beaten her weight problem "heard" under anaesthetic the comment: "She is fat, isn't she?" from one of the operating team. The report suggests that such "unconscious learning" can result in emotional problems after surgery: the student apparently needed psychotherapy to overcome the subsequent depression she experienced.

Professor F.R. Ellis, senior vice-president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, says unconscious learning

Studies suggest that patients under anaesthetic can still absorb what they hear



One patient heard: "Fat, isn't she?"

during anaesthesia is not widely discussed by anaesthetists, although "it certainly warrants further research and dissemination if it is true". Yet in 1986 *The Lancet* ran a leading article advising that "...there is now sufficient evidence to warrant the adoption of active measures to prevent every anaesthetised patient from hearing conversation in the operating theatre. It is unlikely that unconscious auditory perception can be prevented by pharmacological means." Clearly this advice has not been taken up in this country.

Dr John Hughes, consultant anaesthetist at the Morriston Hospital in Swansea, who is currently researching this area, agrees with Professor Ellis. "There is not a great awareness of this problem, and it would cost very little to plug patients' ears during surgery — or even better, to play positive messages through a tape. But the evidence is not conclusive yet, and that may explain why anaesthetists are not following up the advice of the *Lancet* editorial," he says.

Dr Hughes's suggestion that unconscious learning can be therapeutic is based on a recent study that he and his colleagues carried out in Wales and published in the journal *Anaesthesia*. They found that women who heard a tape recording under anaesthesia telling them that they wanted to stop smoking, and that smoking would give them no pleasure, were significantly more likely to have given it up a month later than a group who did not hear this message.

But how does the brain learn without awareness? One way may be that the anaesthetic does not switch off the circuits connecting the ear to the cerebral cortex: in fact, electrical responses in the cortex to sounds can be found during anaesthesia, showing that at least the "raw data" of hearing is getting through to some level in the brain, even if not to the areas responsible for conscious awareness.

This unconscious perception can be recorded in a set of brain circuits known as the "implicit memory" system. This type of memory is quite separate from the conscious, or "explicit" memory, which is what we need to remember whom we met for lunch, what we read in the newspaper yesterday, etc. Implicit memory allows us to learn without awareness, and plays a part in shaping our responses to the world intellectually, behaviourally and emotionally. Implicit memory may also reside in brain circuits which are less sensitive to anaesthetics.

Dr Jackie Andrade of the department of psychology at the University of Sheffield, a British expert on learning under anaesthesia, suggests another possible reason why some patients appear to take in what they hear during anaesthesia. "Many studies have shown that people learn during anaesthesia but it is not clear whether this is due to implicit learning or to multi-periods of wakefulness during anaesthesia," she says. "Whatever the reason, however, I think any residual learning capacity should be harnessed by giving reassurance and positive suggestions to the patient."

I know the evidence is not yet conclusive, and the reasons for learning under anaesthesia are not understood properly. But can I please have some soothing Mozart rather than the sound of flesh being snipped, doctor?

IAN ROBERTSON

prison

هكر امن الاصل

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Treasures from an Italian collection go on show in London

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27 1996

British Gas agrees to review over domestic prices

By Christine Buckley

BRITISH GAS has bowed to pressure for a review of its tariffs for domestic customers after the industry regulator declared them anomalous, saying that some groups benefited from discounts while others were unable to do so.

But the company, which is under increasing pressure from rival suppliers offering a raft of tariffs and tailored packages to domestic customers in the experimental competition area of the South West of England, says it cannot take

immediate action because of technical and competitive reasons. It has agreed to a review of its tariffs, which cater for four basic classifications of customer, when its systems permit. It says it cannot implement a more diverse range of tariffs until its 12 regional billing centres are fused into one in the summer. On competitive grounds, a spokesman for British Gas said the company was unable to publicise a wider selection of tariffs because it is only permitted to follow the market and not lead it down in the countdown to full domestic competition.

Ofgas launched a probe into British Gas's tariffs after it introduced OptionPay last autumn — the system whereby prompt payers are rewarded with a £2 per quarter credit on their bills. The industry watchdog mounted the investigation to determine whether or not the new tariff showed any undue discrimination to consumer groups. It concluded that British Gas's tariffs are not fully cost-reflective and that some customers get no discounts while their payment behaviour is very close to those groups qualifying for paybacks. For example, a person with no debt who had not chosen to pay by direct debit or did not pay within 10 days received no bonus and was treated in the same fashion as one with debt. Ofgas said that customers paying by pre-payment meter were not eligible for discounting and that direct debit customers with low usage did not receive as equitable a deal as those with high usage.

Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said that rival suppliers in the southwest experiment were gaining market share on the back of British Gas's limited

domestic tariffs. "Until British Gas is able to operate a more sophisticated system, competitors will continue to produce better tariffs." The company has still to launch its marketing strategy for the South West which is due to be opened to full competition at the start of April. Yesterday, competition, which some industry observers believe will be delayed until April 29, moved a step closer with the signing of the network code agreement between Transco, British Gas's pipeline operation, and gas shippers. The code, which comes into effect on

Friday, outlines the rights and obligations of Transco and shippers to supply gas to industry, commerce and domestic customers on a competitive basis. Harry Moulson, Transco's managing director, said: "The industry now has an agreed structure which will enable it to meet the needs of every gas user. It sets firm foundations for the building of the fully competitive regime." At the same time, British Fuels, a leading player in fuel distribution, has confirmed that it will join the southwest experiment.

Abbey on the prowl in life sector

By Patricia Teran, Banking Correspondent

ABBEY NATIONAL is actively searching for an acquisition in the life insurance sector in an attempt to increase substantially its share of the growing market. Lord Tugendhat, chairman, said that the mergers and acquisitions seen over the past year were "evidence of the increasing importance of the markets place on scale of operations and market share". He said that Abbey could achieve its objectives through organic growth, but opportunities might arise that would enable it to achieve them more quickly or more efficiently by acquisition. Abbey bought

timbers. Abbey's UK retail banking business pushed profits 6 per cent higher at £687 million. Consumer credit profits were £49 million, against £31 million. Life assurance operations reported £105 million profits, compared with £94 million. Treasury and offshore profits were £217 million, against £190 million. Losses from Continental Europe were reduced from £36 million to £22 million.

Tim Ingram, the chief executive of FNPC, the consumer credit business bought in July last year, has been put in charge of European operations, mainly mortgage lending. He said yesterday that his aim was to return to profitability — although he refused to give a target date — and to put on new business.

Bad debts in UK retail banking increased £5 million to £44 million, with lower mortgage arrears but an increase in bad debts from unsecured loans, taking the total bad debt provision to £72 million, down from £74 million.

Mr Birch is scheduled to retire next year. Lord Tugendhat said that Abbey National hoped to appoint a successor "from within our own ranks".

Mr Ingram, Ian Harley, finance director, Gareth Jones, treasurer, and Andrew Pople, head of life insurance, are seen as likely candidates.

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Scottish Mutual in 1992. Abbey yesterday unveiled a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.03 billion in 1995. The dividend for the year is 23 pence higher at 21.75p, with the final payment due on May 7.

Peter Birch, chief executive, said that Abbey would achieve cost savings of £50 million a year resulting from its acquisition this summer of National & Provincial Building Society. About 130 N&P branches will close because of overlap and staff will move into Abbey branches.

Mr Birch said that there would be no compulsory redundancies, although he expected the headcount to reduce because of natural turnover.

Mr Birch said that the cost savings would come from the lower branch network running costs, the use of one computer system throughout branches, and rationalisation of head office functions, such as the legal department and the internal audit department.

Lord Tugendhat said: "The pursuit of our objectives may include the acquisition of other businesses, the life sector is of particular interest to us." However, he added that Abbey would not pursue any acquisition that would involve a high degree of risk for the business.

Abbey is one of the firms believed to have shown an interest in Clerical Medical, but NatWest is thought to be at the top of its list of preferred



Tugendhat: "opportunities"



Champion hurdler James Hector, above, who with his brother, Nigel, runs the English Baskin and Hurdle Centre at Taunton, Somerset, was celebrating yesterday after the company won the Country Living/Calor Gas Small Rural Business Awards 1996, receiving a £6,000 prize.

Hurdler leaps into top spot

The centre was established in the 1930s to supply basket-makers with willow. Over the past decade it has diversified, growing and using willow to make garden products such as

summer houses and furniture. An expanding part of the family business is the use of willow to control the erosion of river banks.

The company will invest the prize money in a new willow-cutting machine. Runner-up in the competition was the Countryworks Gallery in Montgomery, Powys. Run by Clare and Richard Halshead, the gallery receives a cheque for £3,000. Three third prize winners each received a cheque for £1,000.

Lyell is trustee of defrauded charity

By Robert Miller

SIR Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, is one of two local Conservative MPs listed as a trustee of a Bedford charity that has lost nearly £60,000 to a fraudster.

The Charity Commissioners, who are responsible for supervising the UK's 150,000 main charities, are now in discussions with the trustees, who also include Sir Trevor Skeet, a fellow Bedfordshire MP of Sir Nicholas, on ways in which the money can be recovered.

A spokesman for the commissioners said yesterday: "Trustees of a charity have a personal responsibility for funds under their control." In a worst-case scenario trustees can be asked to make up any shortfall in funds from their own resources, although extreme "culpability" would have to be proved.

The two Conservative MPs are among the 20 trustees of the Sydney Howard Lovell Memorial Alms Houses, which provides 30 dwellings in and around the Bedford area.

Last year, Eric Walker, a

chartered accountant, was convicted on six charges of theft and five of false accounting and was sent to prison for 18 months. With remission taken into account he was released in under a year. John Wells, chairman of the charity's trustees and a member of the Charles Wells brewery family, which has supported the alms houses, said last night that Sir Nicholas was an ex-officio trustee, who had never received any papers relating to the charity nor attended any of its meetings. Sir Trevor had attended "one or two" meetings.

Mr Wells confirmed that recent discussions had been held with the Charity Commissioners. He added: "The bill is now in the commissioners' court as to what to do next."

John Harrison, a charity tax specialist, said: "When MPs or public figures are appointed as charity trustees they must be full trustees. A disclaimer of being ex-officio has no validity. If such individuals cannot devote enough time to acting as trustees they should instead be patrons or vice-patrons."

Shares hit by political uncertainty

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

POLITICAL worries sent investors scurrying for cover on the London stock market as Government securities and share prices suffered sharp falls.

At one stage, the equity market dipped through the 3,700 level after another volatile start to trading on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average fell almost 60 points in the first hour of business. The FT-SE 100 index eventually closed 36.1 down at 3,704.2.

Investors were in no mood to open fresh positions. They wanted to see the outcome of last night's House of Commons vote on the Scott report. As a result, selling pressure was described as minimal, with just 639 million shares changing hands.

Dealers also reported losses in the gilt market, reflecting similar falls in US Treasury bonds. Brokers fear further falls before tomorrow's £3 billion auction.

Unit trust sales close to record

By Robert Miller

UNIT trusts started the new year in bullish form with net retail sales in January of £477 million, up from £314 million in December, and a 50,000 increase in the number of accounts to 6.7 million.

Total net sales, at £1.4 billion, were the second highest on record and double December's £674.4 million.

Funds under management in the 1,637 authorised unit trusts rose to £117 billion last month compared with £112.9 billion in December and £87.5 billion a year ago, according to the latest figures from the Association of Unit Traders and Investment Funds (AUIT).

Sales of unit trusts linked to tax breaks available under personal equity plans (PEPs) helped to boost the overall sales figures. Net investment in traditional PEPs was £301 million against £241 million the month before while monthly net sales of new-style Corporate bond PEPs more than doubled to £126 million.

Repurchases of unit trusts rose sharply to £1.2 billion from £846 million in December. AUIT said research showed that much of the money

cash in was reinvested in other unit trusts almost immediately.

Philip Warland, director-general of AUIT, said: "January's unit trust sales merely confirm the evidence of recent months, which is that people do now understand that part of their savings must be in equities or bonds."

The most popular unit trust sectors in January were Far Eastern funds, with inflows from both professional and private investors totalling £378 million. Of this, private investors put £68 million into Japan and £63 million into Far East trusts which exclude the Japanese market. At home, the UK smaller companies sector attracted £583 million but this included one large transaction from an AUIT member.

AUIT has made key changes to its performance categories by which investors can monitor the health of their investments. UK general trusts now come under UK growth and income, while international balanced funds, which invest in a mixture of international equities and bonds, is renamed international equity and bond.

Green the victor in fight for Mark One

By Sarah Ragnall

PHILIP GREEN, the colourful retailer, has emerged the victor in a close-fought battle for control of Mark One, the women's wear retailer that collapsed last month.

The deal between Mr Green, the former chairman of Amber Day, and the administrators was struck at midnight on Sunday.

Mr Green is thought to have paid about £7.5 million for the 95-strong chain of shops that employ more than 2,200 people and generate sales of £95 million. He beat off a rival £7 million offer from Shami Ahmed, founder of Joe Bloggs sportswear, a former creditor of Mark One.

Last Friday Philip Monjack of Leonard Curtis and Neville Kahn of Coopers & Lybrand, joint administrators, sought court approval for the sale of Mark One to the highest bidder because the group had cash flow problems.

Mr Green's method of gaining control of the group was somewhat unorthodox. Before Mark One collapsed, he acquired £3.3 million of its secured debt from Barclays Bank and 92.5 per cent of its equity from Les Lucy, the founding chairman, and Granville Securities, the venture capitalist.

Mr Green will now be paid in full for the secured debt out of the estimated £7.5 million he has paid for the group. After payment to preferential creditors, about £3 million is available for the unsecured creditors who are owed £14 million.

Mr Kahn said: "After intense negotiations we were able to secure an excellent price and are delighted to have saved so many jobs."

Mark One's collapse was the result of a combination of factors, including a loss of confidence in the company's financial statements and a failure to secure sufficient financing to cover its operating costs.

John Keats.

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John Charcol: 4.4% variable rate mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 would cost £1,000 per year assuming completion on 10th Feb. 3% cashback requirement of £9,000. Assuming a discount rate of 4.4% APR. The first year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.4% APR. The second year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. The third year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. The fourth year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. The fifth year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. The sixth year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. The seventh year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. The eighth year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. 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The two hundred and thirty-first year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate of 4.6% APR. The two hundred and thirty-second year of the loan will be subject to the variable rate mortgage rate

UK growth and inflation prospects 'best in G7'

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will enjoy the best combination of growth and low inflation of any of the Group of Seven industrialised countries this year, according to Oxford Economic Forecasting's latest survey of world economic prospects.

The group forecasts that the British economy will grow by 2.4 per cent, matched only by Italy. But, at the same time, underlying inflation will only be 2.5 per cent, compared with 4.9 per cent predicted for Italy. Germany, for example, is forecast to have inflation of 2.2 per cent but growth of only 1.4 per cent this year. The United

States is expected to match Britain on inflation with 2.5 per cent, but its growth is only likely to be 2 per cent.

Oxford forecasts an average growth rate of 2 per cent in the 25 industrialised countries represented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and an average inflation rate of 3.3 per cent.

Despite Oxford's relative optimism on Britain, it is actually more pessimistic now than in recent reports because of a pause in growth in Europe, which has led to a large build-up of unwanted stocks. Continued action to reverse this stock overhang would continue to depress output in the early part of this year.

In addition, it said that fiscal tightening undertaken by many countries to meet the Maastricht treaty convergence criteria, had not yet had its full impact. "Not surprisingly, against this background, consumer and business confidence is still deteriorating," the Oxford group said.

Oxford said that interest rates in both Europe and America should fall further, predicting 2.75 per cent rates in Germany by the spring and 4.75 per cent in the US by the summer. Most other countries would follow suit. Lower interest rates would bolster growth, it added.

The Oxford group said that the slowdown in European growth is frustrating efforts to

reduce fiscal deficits to qualify for monetary union on the current timetable. It forecasts that Germany will meet the criteria by 1997 but that France, among others, is unlikely to do so.

It said that adjustment is clearly occurring but that relying simply on tightening fiscal policy risks further destabilising the situation. Oxford calls for a co-ordinated strategy to cut interest rates across Europe, coupled with a promise to take advantage of the acceleration of growth to tighten fiscal policy later.

"In the absence of such a move, the most likely outcome is that EMU will be delayed until the early part of the next century," it concluded.

Rentokil formally launches BET bid

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

RENTOKIL, the business services group, yesterday formally initiated the bid period for BET, a rival services company, by publishing its offer document.

The document, which adopts a relatively moderate tone, stresses Rentokil's record over the past 14 years during which it has increased profits 20 per cent a year and the company's share price has outperformed the FT-SE all-share index by 400 per cent.

Rentokil argues that, in contrast, BET has followed a confused strategy and underperformed the index by 45 per cent since the appointment of John Clark, as chief executive, in 1991. Rentokil concludes that BET shareholders would benefit from enhanced business performance and cost savings after a successful bid.

Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, said: "We are trying to concentrate on the future of the combined group and the benefits this will offer to both sets of shareholders."

BET rejected Rentokil's arguments as "backward looking and outdated". BET stressed its strong performance over the past 18 months, with profits for 1995 rising 20 per cent and for the first half of 1996 by 25 per cent. Mr Clark said: "Rentokil's offer is wholly inadequate given BET's strong performance and prospects. Our shareholders are benefiting from BET's significant growth."

The provisional closing date for acceptances for the £1.9 billion bid is March 18, while BET has until March 11 to launch its official defence. The late start comes after the confusion caused by a market leak two weeks ago that forced Rentokil to make public its intentions and the company's approach to buy just part of BET last week.

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Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, is trying to concentrate on the future of the combined group and shareholder benefits

Oil spill compensation claims expected to reach up to £20m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

CLAIMS for compensation from Welsh fishermen for the damage caused by the Sea Empress oil spill are likely to rise to between £18 million and £20 million, loss assessors said yesterday.

The claims will cover loss of income to deep-sea fishermen, to those in the shellfish industry, including crab, lobster, cockle and whelk fishermen, and to the owners and employees of associated processing factories on the 100 miles of coast where oil is being washed ashore.

MPC and Company, the loss assessor, which is advising many of the claimants, has set up an office in Milford Haven and last night met 250 fishermen affected by the spill.

An MPC spokesman said the value of the fishing industry at Milford Haven was about £27 million, and added that the company would meet representatives of the tourist board later this week to assess the damage to their trade.

MPC is also handling claims from Shetland Islanders whose £80 million fishing industry was devastated by an oil spill from the Braer tanker three years ago.

A spokesman for MPC said

yesterday that compensation for the Welsh fishing industry would depend on whether the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Welsh Office imposed a ban on fishing in the region.

At present, there is a voluntary exclusion zone around the waters worst affected. In the case of the Braer, deep-sea fishermen had to wait 14 months before the ban was lifted, and shell and salmon fishermen are prevented from fishing until 2002.

A MAFF decision is expected within the next 48 hours.

In addition to the cost of compensating the fishing and tourist industries, insurers have to pay for the massive clean-up operation, currently estimated at £10 million.

Skuld, the Norwegian insurer of the Braer and the Sea Empress, will bear the first £3.25 million of costs; a further £6.5 million will be paid for by the marine Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs, a form of mutual insurer. If the compensation is greater than £9.74 million, it will be paid for by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC) which levies a charge on leading oil companies.

Some further funding by the oil industry is available if claims top £46.1 million.

Skuld said at the weekend that fishermen affected by the Sea Empress oil spill may have to wait years for compensation because of "inflated and spurious claims" submitted by victims of the Braer spillage just before the three-year time limit on claims expired.

However, MPC said it was "aggravated" by Skuld's comments. "Claims needed to be assessed on an ongoing basis because of the long-term damage to the fishing industry," the MPC spokesman said.

Bull Ring lease sold for £30m

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE leasehold on one of Britain's best known retail developments is to change hands. Hammerson, the property group, is to pay £30 million for the leasehold of the Bull Ring Shopping Centre and adjacent buildings in Birmingham.

Redevelopment of the Sixties-built Bull Ring has been mooted for the past ten years, a prospect that has led to predominantly short-term leases.

The present leaseholder is Forsakringsbolaget SPP, the Swedish insurance and pension group. The deal is subject to government consent for an extensive redevelopment. Birmingham City Council has agreed to give permission.

Ronald Spinney, Hammerson chief executive, said: "Our

vision is to build a new shopping centre of up to 100,000 square metres, including unit shopping and departmental stores, which will revitalise the Bull Ring by substantially improving its links with Birmingham's existing prime retail shopping area."

"This is a long-term project and we look forward to working with the City of Birmingham and the local business community to create a major regional shopping centre in the heart of the city."

The site consists of the 30,000 square metre Bull Ring shopping centre, the Rounda and three other office buildings. Rents total £2 million a year.

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Jury told of Nadir's bank cash transfer

By JON ASHWORTH

ASIL NADIR advanced money from his personal bank accounts to settle outstanding corporate balances, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The claim was made by David Hilton, former deputy general manager of the London branch of Kansallis Osake Pankki, a Finnish bank, giving evidence at the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former financial adviser to the Nadir private family interests.

Mr Hilton told the court of an occasion on which a cheque drawn on Mr Nadir's personal account had been credited to a company with which the bank was not familiar. The transaction came to light after the receipt of documentation from the UK tax authorities.

The court was told of a transaction on October 17, 1989, in which £400,000 drawn on a Polly Peck account in London was transferred to an account at SG Warburg Sodite, in Zurich.

The jury was also told of a deal in which £168,000 was used to buy a herd of Charolais cows. Mrs Forsyth subsequently travelled to the Perth Show, "the Sotheby's of the cow world", and oversaw the purchase of a heifer and two bulls. The cattle were destined for the Baggrave Estate, in Leicestershire, owned by trustees associated with the Nadir family. Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for the defence, suggested that funds for the farm occasionally followed "quite a circuitous route".

Mrs Forsyth, 59, denies two counts of handling nearly £400,000 in funds allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from Polly Peck International. The trial continues today.

GEC to merge sonar business with Thomson

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GEC's Marconi defence electronics subsidiary is to merge its sonar submarine surveillance business with that of Thomson-CSF. Its chief French rival.

Details of the joint venture, a key step in the accelerating consolidation of the European arms industry, will be announced "within weeks", a Thomson spokesman said.

The merger will create the world's largest sonar business. The intention is to reduce costs and increase volumes, enabling the business to compete more effectively with rivals in America, where defence industry rationalisation is already well advanced.

Under the deal, GEC-Marconi Sonar Systems,

based at Templecombe, Somerset, and Thomson's Centra business, based at Brest, will come together. They will then be merged with Ferranti-Thomson Sonar Systems, an existing 50:50 joint venture in Stockport, Cheshire. Previously, the British and French parents have competed with their own joint ventures in procurement competitions in each country.

The French Government has apparently already approved the deal. Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, last week announced plans to privatise Groupe Thomson — which consists of Thomson-CSF and its television and hi-fi sister company, Thomson Multimedia — later this year.

The announcement was accompanied by the replacement of Alain Gomez, chairman of Thomson and architect of talks about a wider merger with GEC-Marconi, by Marcel Roulet, former head of France Telecom.

GEC last night declined to comment. However, the heads of several rival defence businesses in Europe believe that GEC-Marconi and Thomson-CSF would be a "perfect fit", and say that a broader merger may be back on the cards once privatisation of Thomson is complete and the balance sheet, burdened with debt of £120 billion (£26 billion), has been restructured.

Pennington, page 27

French raise British battlefield tax hopes

BRITISH hopes of joining a £3 billion French-German programme to build an armoured personnel carrier have been revived after the French government opted for a new lightweight design as part of its defence costs review. French and German insistence on an existing design for the "battlefield taxi" had blocked British ambitions to join the new Franco-German procurement agency. Britain has been seeking to join the programme for a fighting vehicle to complement its successful Warrior.

Germany had given Britain until Thursday to join the programme. But according to French sources, the French Defence Ministry is now asking for a simpler vehicle that will cost less. Plans for a European rival to the American C130 Hercules transport plane are at risk because France, which had planned to buy 50 to 60 of the 300-plane production run, has dropped all funding for the project from its budget. With British participation already dubious it is doubtful that sufficient support for the plane will be forthcoming.

Thomson in online deal

THE Thomson Corporation of Toronto, the media and travel group, yesterday paid \$3.4 billion in cash for West Publishing, one of the world's largest publishers of legal information. The deal is consistent with Thomson's move towards electronic and specialised publishing and away from newspapers. It recently sold The Scotsman newspaper to the Barclay brothers and has sold other titles. Its largest remaining UK business is Thomson Travel, owner of Luna Poly, the travel agency. West Publishing owns Westlaw, the online legal database that had turnover of \$825 million and operating profits of \$200 million in the year to July 31.

Acorn losses deepen

ACORN COMPUTER GROUP, the specialist educational computers company, saw losses take a turn for the worse, from £3.4 million to £12.3 million before tax, in the year to December 31. The disappointing results were affected by provisions, closure costs and the company's reorganisation of current businesses. The loss per share rose to 14.5p from 4.9p previously. There is again no dividend. The company reported that group turnover dropped by 24 per cent, falling to £38.5 million from £50.4 million the previous year. After taking into account stockpiling by customers, sales to end-customers were down by 18 per cent.

Airbus sales agreement

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European plane-building consortium in which British Aerospace is a 20 per cent partner, has signed a memorandum of understanding for the sale of 20 A330 aircraft worth \$800 million to Northwest Airlines of the United States. The twin-engine, 150-seat planes will join 50 other A320s already delivered to or on order from Northwest. However, the order was accompanied by an agreement to defer delivery of 16 A330 sub-jumbo jets, worth some \$1.6 billion, for five years. Northwest said that, under the agreement, other Airbus planes could be substituted for the A330s if they met the airline's needs better as passenger numbers rise.

Action on bad debt

LEEDS & HOLBECK, the UK's 15th largest building society, said yesterday that it had increased bad debt provisions to £18.3 million, from £14.7 million, "to reflect the continuing difficult market conditions in 1995 and in anticipation of the adverse impact of the Government's changes to income support in respect of mortgage interest". Operating profits rose 17.4 per cent to a record £33.76 before the bad debt cover was taken into account. Retail investment balances at the Leeds & Holbeck increased £97 million to nearly £2 billion, while mortgage lending was £273 million. The key cost-to-income ratio dropped to 38.8 per cent, from 41.6 per cent.

RJB miners reject strike

MEMBERS of the National Union of Mineworkers working for RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal company, have voted against the union's recommendation of selective strikes over a claim for a "substantial" wage rise. Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, said he was "disappointed" by the vote. He accused the company, which owns most of the English coalfield, of "blatant interference and intimidatory tactics" to persuade miners not to back strikes. Voting was 2,033 (65 per cent) against a strike, with 1,074 (35 per cent) in favour, on a 61 per cent turnout. The NUM said the figures showed a 14 per cent rise in union membership in RJB since a strike ballot last year.

NEC Electronics launch

VIDEOLOGIC, the multimedia group that last year agreed a tie-up with NEC, the Japanese computer company, to develop and licence multimedia chips for personal computers and interactive TV, said that NEC Electronics is launching a new range of 3-D graphics processors. VideoLogic and NEC have developed the PowerVR design for use initially in PCs and arcade games. The arcade version is due for production in the second quarter of this year, with the PC processor set for volume output in the third quarter. The new processor is expected to speed up the time needed to bring products to market.

Engineering pay 'steady'

PAY deals in engineering companies averaged 3.4 per cent last month, confirming that the trend is "steady", according to a report today. The Engineering Employers' Federation report said the level of settlements shows that fears of a pay-and-prices spiral this year are not justified by events. David Yeandle, the EEF's head of employment affairs, said: "January is a trend-setting month and we are confident the engineering industry is getting it right." Pay rises in the engineering industry have remained at about 3.4 per cent since last summer.

Water indemnity of £10 'too low'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY



A tanker delivering water in Northumbria last month

A HARD-HITTING demand for compensation for water customers whose use was disrupted last year has been sent to the water regulator by the Consumers' Association.

The association criticises draft plans for compensation by Ian Byatt, the director-general of water supply, and blames much of the interruptions in supply on "under-investment and disorganisation" rather than "exceptional weather. It condemns a proposed £10 a day payment as too low and unrepresentative of the value that consumers place on the service.

The consumers' group says this compares poorly with the £20 a day from British Gas after an initial 24 hours, and £40 per day after the first 24 hours and then £20 for each 12-hour period paid by electricity

companies. It is also critical of the suggested £25 compensation for hosepipe bans, saying this is inadequate for customers who have spent substantially on garden stocks.

With Ofwat only weeks from making a final recommendation to the Government on the levels of compensation that water companies should offer, the association complains that compensation should not be seen as a financial incentive for supplies not to be interrupted. It says the payments should fully reflect the loss of service, inconvenience and expense of boiling water.

The association has also asked the regulator to introduce a standard of service for vulnerable groups such as the elderly or disabled, who cannot easily use standpipes.

	Bank	Buy	Bank	Sell
Australia \$	2.12	1.96		
Austria S	18.75	16.52		
Belgium F	48.85	44.55		
Canada \$	2.225	2.088		
Denmark D	0.748	0.694		
France F	6.55	6.14		
Germany M	7.49	6.84		
France F	5.07	7.42		
Germany D	2.88	2.17		
Swiss S	288.00	364.00		
Japan Y	175.80	11.55		
Italy L	1.02	0.94		
Israel S	5.190	4.540		
Italy L	2917.00	2386.00		
Japan Y	175.80	11.55		
Malta M	0.580	0.584		
Netherlands G	2.650	2.420		
New Zealand \$	2.42	2.30		
Norway K	10.28	9.53		
Portugal B	245.00	224.50		
S Africa R	7.48	6.58		
Spain P	166.00	182.00		
Sweden K	10.87	10.77		
Switzerland F	1.34	1.76		
Turkey L	8818.0	945.0		
USA \$	1.637	1.597		

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□ Gloves stay on at BET/Rentokil □ Way clear for Anglo-French deal □ Hotels buffed up for sale this year

Mrs Mopp's industrial logic

ONE of the oddities of City takeover battles is that some attract attention out of all proportion to their significance, while others are flowers destined to bloom unseen.

At the glamorous end of the spectrum are media companies and hotels, for example, especially if their premises are the regular haunts of the great and the good. At the other end are those in the boring business of actually making things as well as, say, rat-catching and the provision of linen hand-towels to those same hotels.

Explain otherwise a nation's rapt fascination for the Fortis/Granada battle, value £3.8 billion, which decided the fate of motorway service stations — oh, and some hotels. Explain the scant attention paid to the £9 billion takeover by Glaxo of Wellcome, which decided the future of most of the country's pharmaceuticals industry.

By this measure the Rentokil/BET battle, value £1.8 billion, can expect minimal exposure, and so it has been so far. Rentokil's bland offer document looks designed to maintain this low profile.

The unwillingness to draw blood in public suggests that the two sides retain hopes of striking a deal, so saving some of the huge fees their advisers are already mentally totting up.

Rentokil's Clive Thompson is known as Mr 20 Per Cent for his insistence on annual earnings growth of this measure from such diverse services as rat-catchers, those useful people who provide your office with tropical plants, and assorted Mrs Mopp's. He sees the bid as bringing into this empire a collection of similar, but less well-run, services.

This, then, is the industrial logic argument: having proven one wheel stall properly, you take on a second one doing less well and repeat the trick. As evidence, he had initially pointed to the 24 per cent margins his service businesses enjoy, against 8 per cent at BET. But Rentokil has held back from hammering this point home again — a bid to maintain friendly relations? Or because those numbers, on close examination, do not stack up?

John Clark, the American who has been slowly turning round BET, rejects the industrial logic argument, because he knows it plays well with the City. He says Rentokil is trying to create a conglomerate, a word designed,

by contrast, to send the institutions running for cover. A tangle of recent takeover bids shows that those showing clear industrial logic tended to win; those aimed at building a conglomerate either failed or the bidder subsequently underperformed the rest of the stock market.

These are the demarcation lines between which Rentokil/BET will be fought. Granada/Fortis left a nasty taste, even in some City mouths. BET is not averse to an agreed deal. Rentokil's problem will be to find a price at which one can be struck that allows next year's 20 per cent target to be met.

Sonar so good for defence industry

Enfin! The merger of GEC's sonar business with that of Thomson-CSF of France, to be announced within weeks, is exactly the kind of deal Europe's shot-up defence industry needs.

The merger will create the world's leading sonar company, a business with the necessary firepower to confront its Ameri-



can rivals, which are in the ascendant. Hitherto, GEC and Thomson have each maintained separate businesses developing and building sonar systems for submarines. These have competed with a joint venture between the same parties, Ferranti-Thomson Sonar Systems, for work from the British and French navies.

This draft set-up has allowed Britain's Ministry of Defence to maintain its cherished policy of competing suppliers. But the cost to the taxpayer of maintaining rivals for niche markets under acute cost pressure has been high. Now common sense is prevailing as Britain's rival for the number two slot in the world's defence industry league

table, France, faces up to the post-Cold War realities.

In some technologies — airframes, aero-engines, specialist electronics, frigates — neither Britain nor France can still afford one national champion, let alone two. So value for money for the taxpayer will be achieved by running competing design teams within a company — a practice championed by Boeing on civil jets and finding favour elsewhere — to come up with the optimum solution.

Thomson is in many respects an ideal partner for GEC-Marconi, Britain's second-biggest defence company after British Aerospace. Like GEC, Thomson is well run. Like GEC, it has taken advantage of growing overcapacity among its rival arms makers to buy in and rationalise surplus capacity, both British and Dutch.

The aim of the French Government, Thomson's principal shareholder, is to create companies able to negotiate equal-weight deals with European partners. The keenness on international mergers of smaller businesses is evidence of both French flexibility

and government intentions for the rest of the state-owned arms industry under Jacques Chirac's Nouvelle Régime.

Still some slack at the Savoy

FORTE shareholders would probably still be waiting for positive action from their board had Granada not arrived three months ago to accelerate events.

Shareholders in the Savoy are now starting to see the benefits of the belated acquisition by Forte of some degree of control. Yesterday's results announcement saw a marginal improvement on the profit estimate given last month, but what was noted by the City was the amount of further cost-cutting still possible.

The actual damage so far done to the precious Savoy high culture by the Forte vandals under Ramon Pajares as managing director has been limited, in spite of the howls of outrage from the die-hard Savoyards. Aiming the centralised wine department and the printing press, and a more commercial approach to

buying in the fruit and veg, are hardly acts of desecration.

Nor is it unreasonable to accept that the customer today has different needs from the customer of 30 years ago, and tends to arrive, for example, encumbered with laptops and fax machines that require access to the outside world.

If the Savoy is this year going to be sold to a super-rich trade buyer, then the incumbent management has a duty to enhance the value of the shares by such measures, and to show that it is doing so.

Otherwise, the stock market's perception, and the share price, will lag behind events, and minority shareholders will be deprived of the full value of their investment.

A golden touch

A SPECTACULARLY misconceived report at the weekend suggested that Mr Midas himself, George Soros, had come unstuck. Classicists will recall that King Midas also came to regret and reject his gift. The Soros Quantum Fund has by its own success acquired the ability to move markets, so the report sent the European bond market into a tailspin. Quantum is to be commended for its willingness, therefore, to put the record straight so firmly and so quickly.



John Bond, chief executive of HSBC Holdings, left, with Douglas Flint, group finance director, yesterday

HSBC climbs despite Midland's bad debt rise

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HSBC HOLDINGS, parent of Midland Bank and James Capel, the stockbroker, reported a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.67 billion last year.

Midland improved its performance, with profits of £998 million, against £905 million in 1994. First Direct, Midland's phone banking operation, made its first full-year profit.

However, Midland's bad debt charge more than doubled to £98 million, of which between £75 million and £100 million is thought to relate to its exposure to Eurotunnel, the troubled Channel tunnel operator. John Bond, HSBC's chief executive, refused to comment on the Eurotunnel exposure.

HSBC bad debt charges were £416 million, up from £275 million in 1994, after a £114

million increase in general provisions to £130 million. Investment banking profits, including James Capel and Samuel Montagu in the UK, fell 18.6 per cent to £171 million last year, with the biggest drops coming from equity securities, mostly James Capel, whose profits were 54 per cent down at £27 million.

The business was affected by the downturn in volumes in equity markets in Hong Kong and costs associated with investments in South Africa, India and Australia.

Mr Bond refused to comment on speculation that HSBC might be interested in an acquisition in Britain or North America. Outlining strategy, he said that the bank would focus relentlessly on business in

Hong Kong, complete the integration of Midland Bank, expand in the rest of Asia Pacific, and work to enhance shareholder value. He said that he wanted to reduce seven main Midland operating systems to four and that investment in refurbishing the branch network continued.

Midland increased its mortgage share, with a £1 billion rise in its mortgage book, in spite of increased pressure on margins, and increased the size of its corporate loan book by £4 billion. Keith Whitson, its chief executive, said that pressure on margins remained.

A Midland spokesman said he did not recognise estimates from Biffi, the finance union, that more than 3,300 jobs were to be axed this year. He said

2,600 jobs would go from the branch network and 270 in head office functions, but 1,770 jobs would be created in centralised operations and 700 more in First Direct and other areas. This meant that there would be a net decrease of 400 jobs this year, he said.

Attributable profits from HongkongBank were 16 per cent higher at £1.36 billion. Midland's attributable profits were £610 million, up 10 per cent. US profits were £185 million, up from £150 million.

Earnings per share were 18 per cent higher at 94p. The dividend for the year has been increased 18.5 per cent to 32p, with the final payment of 22.75p due on June 3.

Tempus, page 28

Bank staff back ballot over action

UNIFI, the union representing more than two thirds of Barclays Bank staff, will today announce that members have voted for a ballot on strike action over pay and conditions on the same day that the bank is expected to unveil record profits in excess of £2 billion (Robert Miller writes).

The union said about 83 per cent of members will reject Barclays' sixth below-inflation pay offer in as many years while more than half of Unifi members are calling for a ballot on strike action. Last year Barclays staff participated in the first national strike to hit the bank as the union claimed that Barclays' top six directors were awarded a total of £7.1 million in pay and share options. The union said staff work nearly three million hours of unpaid overtime each year, equal to £35 million worth of free labour.

Blue Circle to cut up to 1,300 jobs

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

AS MANY as 1,300 jobs are likely to be lost across Europe in the restructuring of Blue Circle International's heating division, with the toll in Britain expected to exceed 370.

The shake-up in the division, which turned in a £100,000 profit for the first half of last year, compared with £12 million in the same period of 1994, was announced at the end of last year. Disclosure of the details has been held up by labour negotiations in France and Germany.

The redundancies and relocation of production will cost about £55 million — the amount that the company realised in profits from the sale of its landfill operations.

So far, the company has identified almost 800 certain job losses; it said its plans would lead to a further 400 to 500, its provisions of £55

million cover a reduction of 1,150.

Blue Circle, which makes building materials and home products, has endured gradual erosion at its heating operation from the poor housing market and a steal in market share by Italian producers, which have been undercutting prices.

James Loudon, finance director, said: "We have been affected by housebuilding but also the housing market in general. We are heavily housing transaction driven and also depend on a certain confidence in the economy for people to consider replacing their systems."

Half of the sales of boilers, for example, are replacements, with the other half share taken by new building.

Tempus, page 28

British Coal steps up sale of property

BRITISH COAL is increasing the pace of disposals of its once vast portfolio of property, hoping to complete the final sale by the end of this year (Christine Buckley writes).

British Coal has 15 more packages of land and commercial property to sell, including Trentham Gardens conference and leisure centre in Staffordshire.

The sale of land began last summer, so far £30 million has been raised.

Separately, British Coal was hoping late yesterday to hold talks with trustees of its pension funds.

The trustees, who earlier this month scuppered the company's plans to sell management of the £17 billion worth of pensions for miners and staff to Friends Provident for £70 million, were meeting yesterday to finalise their plans for the funds.

Funds on the rise at Brewin

AN aggressive acquisition drive at Brewin Dolphin has helped to push up total funds under management by 24 per cent to break the £6 billion barrier (Robert Miller writes).

The fund manager and private client stockbroker reported a 4 per cent rise in profits to £4.2 million and raised its final payout by 17 per cent for the 55 weeks to December 31 to give a total dividend for the year of 7p. Total income in the extended reporting period was £34.5 million against £29.3 million in the previous 52 weeks.

Its next target for acquisition is James Finlay Investment Management, which has £100 million under discretionary management. John Hall, managing director of Brewin Dolphin, said: "We hope to complete the transaction in April."

Potential bidders check out Savoy Hotel group

By EMIL REGULY

THE Savoy Hotel group said it has been approached by several potential bidders but played down the likelihood of a sale in the near future, even though its financial outlook has improved substantially since the recession (see Pennington this page).

The warning came as the Savoy, whose properties include the Savoy, the Berkeley, Claridge's and the Connaught, posted a 138 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £11.5 million, in the year to December 31, and doubled the dividend on both classes of shares.

Granada acquired a 68 per cent stake in the Savoy when it won its hostile £3.8 billion bid for Forte in January. Granada wants to sell that stake either separately or in a package that includes Forte's Meridien and Exclusive luxury hotel chains.

The sale will not be easy, however, because Granada lacks voting control and, as



Pajares: deal may take time

such, will not be able to command a premium for its equity stake. Control lies with the Wontner family and the various trusts that back it. They own more of the B shares, which carry 20 times voting rights of the A shares.

The Wontners, so far, have been unwilling to sacrifice control, but may be willing to do so if they are offered a high price.

Ramon Pajares, the Savoy's managing director, said: "We have been approached by several groups interested in the Savoy group, but I think it will take a bit of time for this deal." Neither he nor Granada would provide details. Prince al-Waleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, who owns stakes in Euro Disney and America's Citicorp, is thought to be one of the potential buyers.

Turnover increased 5 per cent to £92 million and earnings per share more than doubled to 27.5p on the A shares and 13.8p on the B shares. The dividend on the A shares rises from 7p to 14p, while the dividend on the B shares goes from 3.5p to 7p.

Granada is expected to announce by the end of the week that it intends to sell the White Hart chain of mid-market hotels to Regal Hotels Group. Regal agreed to buy the hotels from Forte on January 22, the day before Forte's purchase by Granada.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Home game at Exeter City

TEAM tactics at Beazer Homes have left Exeter City Football Club in some doubt as to the future of its 7,000 capacity stadium at St James's Park. Beazer Homes, who bought the ground nine months ago for £650,000 and hopes to build about 70 homes on it, has already turned down the club's offer of just below £800,000. Beazer is holding out for £1.2 million. Exeter City Council, as referee, hopes to negotiate a compulsory purchase order by the end of this week, that would enable it to set up a trust and lease the ground to Exeter City Football Club.

Well, well

LEE STEEL STRIP of Meadowhall, Sheffield, asserts its bills from Yorkshire Water have rocketed to £200,000 a year since privatisation, and plans to reopen a 50-year-old well under its factory which will supply nearly two-thirds of its annual water needs and save £100,000.

Back to work

CITY UNIVERSITY, with help from the Corporation of London, is doing its bit to help professional people who have been made redundant. A three-day course, at the modest cost of £100, is being held in Central London between March 15 and April 16 to help them assess their potential for "fresh options" to get back into the workforce.



"More cost savings - they're cutting down in the heating division."

Jaguar trail

EVEN insurers are vulnerable to burglary, namely Gillian Clark, a director of Eagle Star, whose BMW was recently stolen, along with her prized Jaguar. Mrs Clark and her family were asleep when burglars broke into their converted barn that looks over the Cotswolds. Strangely, huge paw prints were found across the floor. The Clarks have since invested in their own canine.

Bull market

JURORS in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth are hearing much about the cattle once owned by the family of Asif Nadr, and with a prize bull called Crackerjack in particular. And Mr Justice Tucker, is at pains to ensure fair treatment for all. Jack Young, a pedigree cattle consultant, was brought up short yesterday when he told the court "Females are always cheaper." He was referring, needless to say, to a heifer and not female staff. Mrs Forsyth denies handling stolen funds.

Inn place

A LUCRATIVE week for the Savoy Group, owners of the Lygon Arms, a rather grand hostelry in the heart of the Cotswolds, where the family of Sir Gordon Russell, the designer, once lived. Visitors are flocking to the picturesque village of Broadway where, for the first time, Russell's workshops are open for inspection. The Lygon Arms, which boasts whole rooms of Russell furniture and costs at least £147 for the night, snuggles next door to the design guru's workshops.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Sir Terence Conran's Conran Restaurants made a pre-tax profit of £2.8 million last year from mega-eateries like the 400-seat Quaglinos

Britons acquire a taste for eating out again

Carl Mortished looks into the growth of Britain's restaurant trade, up 25 per cent in the past five years

In a typical British high street, the most impressive building was once the bank. Its classical stone facade boasted its substance to passers-by. Inside, the high ceilings of the banking hall encouraged patrons to lower their voices as though in the presence of something more important than money.

Victorian and Edwardian banking halls survived the property booms of the 1970s and 1980s. But today the temples of Mammon are being converted to the worship of food. Where a whey-faced clerk once lectured a customer about a £50 overdraft, now a resting actor with a fake tan flourishes a menu in which the same sum might just cover the cost of dinner for two.

The transformation of banks into restaurants is an apt commentary on the stupendous growth of the restaurant trade, up 25 per cent over the past five years. Eating out is a business now worth some £16.5 billion a year, ranging from burger chains to more pretentious establishments with big-name chefs. In pursuit of bigger profits, restaurants are growing in size following the trend started by Sir Terence Conran's gastrodomes. Themed restaurants, such as Planet Hollywood, which has announced its US flotation, are bringing in super profits from merchandising while in the UK, quoted restaurant operators, such as Pelican Group, are finally receiving serious attention from City stockbrokers.

The rapid expansion is the more astonishing having occurred in the teeth of a recession. The restaurant trade's success has been a boon to city centre landlords, desperate for signs of rental growth. Restaurant owners were not always so welcome in polite financial

circles. In 1972, planning rules changed, requiring specific consent for restaurant use. Over the next two decades, planners decanted the high street into out-of-town malls, but caterers struggled to convert empty retail space into restaurant use.

David Coffey, chairman of Davis Coffey Lyons, an agency specialising in restaurant property, remembers a time when restaurant was almost a dirty word. "Since the 1960s, no landlord wanted a restaurant in his building," he recollects. The stated concerns were smells and noise affecting upstairs tenants, but Mr Coffey admits there was more than a little racism in the attitude of some planners and landlords towards the often foreign restauranters. He recalls an institutional landlord that turned down a restaurant operator in favour of a sex shop.

Today, many landlords faced with empty space at street level would prefer the financial covenant of a restaurant operator than that of some fashion retailers. Mr Coffey sees no reason for growth to slow, quoting statistics demonstrating half of the food consumed by Americans is eaten outside of the home, compared with only a quarter in Britain. "Manhattan has 14,000 restaurants. We have only 7,000 in London."

London's West End is seeing the biggest expansion, with restaurant operators paying large premiums for the right space. Mr Coffey sees a property strip where rents are going sky-high from Piccadilly Circus to Leicester Square and on to Covent Garden. A route

well trodden by tourists, taking in Planet Hollywood, passing the proposed site of the Fashion Cafe and the soon to open Capital Radio restaurant in Leicester Square.

In Covent Garden, community residents are alarmed about plans by Scottish Widows, the insurer, for a 500-seat establishment fronting the Piazza. The rent for the 22,000 square feet could top £700,000. Mr Coffey said. Typically, a restaurateur will seek to keep his rent below 10 per cent of turnover, suggesting that the new restaurant will need to turn over £7 million to £10 million per year. Andrew Winkell, property director at Scottish Widows, sees no particular risk. "There is a great deal of demand for large units to achieve economies of scale," he said, but admitted that he feels happier to be landlord than a restaurant financier.

Such rapid growth in the industry raises the spectre of casualties. As David Coffey explains, the public's palate is quickly jaded. "We have all become more sophisticated. We don't care where it is, in a warehouse, in a cellar, as long as it is interesting. All the successful ones have got one thing in common: theatre. Restaurants used to last ten years; now they have to look at it again after five years."

Kitting out even a modest sized restaurant can cost £250,000, while fixtures and fittings of a large themed operation could hit £1.5 million. The capital investment is amortised against profits over a period, but there is a concern that some

restaurants are not deprecating their assets as fast as fashion would dictate. Another concern is rising rents. Peter Webber, managing director of My Kinda Town, which owns several chains and recently secured the management contract for the Capital Radio restaurant, notes that rents in his London establishments have been static for ten years. Roger Myers, of Pelican Group, owner of the Café Rouge chain reckons West End rents will move up sharply and points out the advantage of small establishments. "If we make a mistake in one of our restaurants, the exposure is small. If you build a 700-seater and something goes wrong, you have a problem."

Restaurants typically make a 60-70 per cent gross margin on food, so the secret to big profits is to keep overheads stable while getting more diners through the door. Mr Myers said that an establishment taking £1 million at the till might pay out 30 per cent in wages, 30 per cent on food, 10 per cent on rent and rates, leaving the owner with £200,000 in operating profit. Businesses such as Planet Hollywood can earn bigger bucks selling memorabilia at three or four times cost.

The trendsetter in mega-eateries is Sir Terence Conran, whose Conran Restaurants company made a pre-tax profit of £2.8 million last year from restaurants like the 400-seat Quaglinos and the 700-seat Mezzo, which has an annualised turnover of £14.5 million. According to Joel Kissen, managing director,

the pace is not slowing, with a new restaurant opening just off Regent Street and another on the King's Road. Conran walked away from a chance of a lease at the top of the Oxo building overlooking the Thames, since snapped up by Harvey Nichols. "We didn't want to pay that sort of money. They were looking for £28 per sq ft," Mr Kissen said. "Property prices are going up, in some cases, dangerously so."

The durability of the craze for eating out is being put to an unpleasant test by the renewed IRA bombing campaign. Roger Myers has noticed a recent lessening of crowds in the West End, but the feeling is that the effect will be temporary and that Britain is experiencing a more fundamental change in culture.

Jonathan Lane, chief executive of Shafesbury, which owns the Chinatown Estate, reckons his tenants are seeing growth from British families, not tourists. "The biggest fortnight in Chinatown was during the October half-term holiday, last year. Some restaurants turned their tables over six times."

There will be failures and the public may grow tired of the gastrodomes. In New York, it is reckoned that 80 per cent of new restaurants fail within two years but others quickly take their place. Once exposed to new tastes, the public will clamour for more.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Morals more than markets

Amid all the lies and dissimulations uncovered by the Scott report perhaps the most important was one completely missed by the learned judge, who presumably has no more knowledge of economics than he does of plain speaking. Let me express it in the words of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, speaking in Parliament yesterday:

"The moral case for refusing defence exports has to be set against British economic interests. The arms industry provides employment to 400,000. Arms exports make an important contribution to Britain's overseas trade."

You can imagine the rest - *pecunia non olet*; export or die; blah, blah, blah. Any undergraduate economist knows that these arguments are false. The total level of employment in an economy is not determined by the fortunes of any particular industry, or group of industries, in anything but the very short term. If Britain stopped producing all arms tomorrow 400,000 munitions workers might lose their present jobs. But most would be quickly re-employed in different industries, provided only that the total level of spending in the economy was maintained.

But why should there be no drop in the level of demand? Because the Government has a policy of setting interest rates on the basis of prospects for growth and inflation. If unemployment rises after the defence cuts, inflationary pressures diminish and the Chancellor cuts interest rates until the original level of employment is restored. In practice, of course, the Chancellor may fail to do this. But then it is monetary policy, rather than defence cuts, that should be blamed for destroying jobs.

Consider the US experience since 1990. More than a million defence workers have been made redundant, yet total unemployment has steadily declined. The Federal Reserve has made clear that its monetary policy was directly conditioned by the cuts in defence employment. If defence jobs had not been reduced, the US interest

rates would have been higher - the total level of employment would have been much the same.

But what about arms exports? Surely Britain must pay its way in the world with exports? This is another misconception - a relic from the days of fixed exchange rates and sterling crises. In a country that maintains a floating exchange rate, exports are no more important than goods or services of any other kind. If Britain's stopped selling arms abroad, the only consequence would be a small slide in sterling. This would marginally reduce British living standards by making imports more expensive - but also help non-military exporters to sell their wares.

Samuel Brittan of the *Financial Times*, in an article last Monday, estimated that the maximum reduction in British living standards from eliminating all arms exports - including even exports to our Nato allies - would be about £3 billion or £1 a week per British citizen. The effect of eliminating just a few odious regimes and a few weapons would be negligible.

But why should we jeopardise the employment of even a few Britons and force them to seek lower-paid jobs in other industries? This question is best answered with another. Why should we deny many thousands of young Britons employment in the cocaine and heroin industries and force them to seek much lower-paid jobs elsewhere?

The answer is that governments exist to make moral choices - and nations are defined by the choices they make. This is indeed one of the main reasons for preserving an independent currency and rejecting European Monetary Union. A floating currency gives Britain the freedom to make its own political choices. But we must then accept moral responsibility for the choices we make. To blame "economic realities" and "market forces" is either ignorance or hypocrisy. In the present Government, there seems to be plenty of both.

Alasdair Murray on bingo's battle to compete

Gaming laws ripe for overhaul

The arrival of the National Lottery, with its efficient operation and huge advertising spend, has thrown into stark relief the archaic nature of many British gaming laws. While the powerful betting and pools companies have won concessions, the lower-profile bingo and casino operators are hoping the Government's consultative paper on the industry, due to be published in the next few days, will begin to redress their grievances.

These two industries have faced an uphill battle over reforms because, unlike the betting and pools companies, they are almost entirely regulated through the 1968 Gaming Act and require full legislation to be pushed through the Commons. The consultative paper, which is only a prelude to legislation, was supposed to have been published a year ago but became snarled in the bureaucratic treadmill. There is now some doubt whether the recommendations will become law ahead of the next election. Bingo has been hit hard by the lottery. Rank, which operates one of the country's biggest bingo chains, said last week that around 90 per cent of bingo players enter the lottery weekly, compared with around two-thirds of adults nationally, and some 20 per cent of bingo players regularly purchase scratchcards.



Chips are down for casinos, which want "puritanical" restrictions abolished

Bingo players tend to have a modest disposable income and the industry believes that a 14 per cent fall in attendances and 35 per cent drop in profitability this year can be blamed almost entirely on the lottery. With such a direct overlap in custom the industry is hopeful that the consultative paper will give bingo operators the opportunity to fight back. In particular, they want the removal of advertising restrictions that, bizarrely, permit bingo clubs to advertise prize money or the location of a club, but not the two aspects together.

The industry also believes the Government will end the need for a 24-hour waiting restriction on membership, although Joanne Broderick, secretary-general of the Bingo Association of Great Britain,

contends that the industry would not want to lose entirely the "club" atmosphere that distinguishes bingo.

The industry should also benefit from another report from the Commons Committee on Deregulation, also due in the next few days, increasing the number of fruit machines that bingo clubs can put on their premises, and the size and type of prize.

Casinos, which attract higher-spending customers, have been less affected by the lottery. But the industry, which has grown strongly in recent years, is hampered from further expansion by a series of puritanical restrictions.

Brian Lemon, general secretary of the British Casino Industry, said: "It has always been difficult to build up a

profile when our 118 casinos are spread right across the country and we face a blanket ban on advertising."

The ban is one restriction that the industry is hoping will be lifted, although it is not arguing for complete deregulation but a relaxation of rules that will allow casinos to make their presence known to tourists and business travellers.

For the same reason, the industry is confident that a 48-hour delay on membership will be lifted to allow short-term travellers to play. Other measures it expects to be included in the paper are the abolition of antiquated payment laws, which allow chips to be purchased by cheque but not by debit and credit cards, and the relaxation of licensing laws to permit alcohol to be served after midnight.

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55	77	23	Chase	5th	72-	1	3.3	745	479	21	Adm. Serv.	711	-	14	24	20
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57	79	25	Chase	7th	74-	1	3.3	747	481	23	Adm. Serv.	713	-	16	26	22
58	80	26	Chase	8th	75-	1	3.3	748	482	24	Adm. Serv.	714	-	17	27	23
59	81	27	Chase	9th	76-	1	3.3	749	483	25	Adm. Serv.	715	-	18	28	24
60	82	28	Chase	10th	77-	1	3.3	750	484	26	Adm. Serv.	716	-	19	29	25
61	83	29	Chase	11th	78-	1	3.3	751	485	27	Adm. Serv.	717	-	20	30	26
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63	85	31	Chase	13th	80-	1	3.3	753	487	29	Adm. Serv.	719	-	22	32	28
64	86	32	Chase	14th	81-	1	3.3	754	488	30	Adm. Serv.	720	-	23	33	29
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66	88	34	Chase	16th	83-	1	3.3	756	490	32	Adm. Serv.	722	-	25	35	31
67	89	35	Chase	17th	84-	1	3.3	757	491	33	Adm. Serv.	723	-	26	36	32
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70	92	38	Chase	20th	87-	1	3.3	760	494	36	Adm. Serv.	726	-	29	39	35
71	93	39	Chase	21st	88-	1	3.3	761	495	37	Adm. Serv.	727	-	30	40	36
72	94	40	Chase	22nd	89-	1	3.3	762	496	38	Adm. Serv.	728	-	31	41	37
73	95	41	Chase	23rd	90-	1	3.3	763	497	39	Adm. Serv.	729	-	32	42	38
74	96	42	Chase	24th	91-	1	3.3	764	498	40	Adm. Serv.	730	-	33	43	39
75	97	43	Chase	25th	92-	1	3.3	765	499	41	Adm. Serv.	731	-	34	44	40
76	98	44	Chase	26th	93-	1	3.3	766	500	42	Adm. Serv.	732	-	35	45	41
77	99	45	Chase	27th	94-	1	3.3	767	501	43	Adm. Serv.	733	-	36	46	42
78	100	46	Chase	28th	95-	1	3.3	768	502	44	Adm. Serv.	734	-	37	47	43
79	101	47	Chase	29th	96-	1	3.3	769	503	45	Adm. Serv.	735	-	38	48	44
80	102	48	Chase	30th	97-	1	3.3	770	504	46	Adm. Serv.	736	-	39	49	45
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446	315	Black (A&C)	32
281	174	Blenheim Co	23
118	195	Broad TV	27
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13%	119%	Index 12% 2003-05	128%	-	5.89	2.8
107%	94%	Index 7% 2005	96%	-	7.76	7.5
5.00	5.59	Index 7% 2006	98%	-	7.90	8.0
10.50	10.4%	Index 8% 2006-05	99%	-	8.03	8.0
10.50	113%	Index 8% 2007-07	120%	-	9.7%	1.0
9.74	97%	Index 9% 2007	100%	-	3.23	8.0
6.93	126%	Index 13% 2004-08	133%	-	10.14	7.9
12.47	101%	Index 8% 2008	100%	-	10.14	7.9

9.23	6.54	80%	79%	Treas 67% 2010	83%	-	7.49	8.21
7.16	6.61	112%	101%	Conv 9% 2011	108%	-	8.43	8.22
6.73	6.64	112%	102%	Treas 9% 2012	107%	-	8.1	8.1
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18.73	7.26	113 ² ₂₂	106 ² ₂₂	James & 4 th 1996	112	-	0.85
9.03	7.39	180 ² ₂₂	169 ² ₂₂	Travis & 2 nd 2001	177 ² ₂₂	1.40	2.71
7.14	7.43	176 ² ₂₂	161 ² ₂₂	James & 2 nd 2003	172 ² ₂₂	2.96	3.50
8.59	7.62	178 ² ₂₂	168 ² ₂₂	Travis & 4 th 2001	172 ² ₂₂	3.18	3.56

7.85	7.74	185%	160%	Team 2: 2.5% 2004	115%	-1%	1.24	1.60
8.98	7.20	167%	152%	Team 2: 2.5% 2005	181%	-2%	3.33	3.60
9.87	7.50	132%	154%	Team 2: 2.5% 2011	182%	-1%	3.44	3.67
4.35	6.85	143	129%	Team 2: 2.5% 2010	158%	-1%	2.48	3.69
7.51	7.91	132%	137%	Team 2: 2.5% 2011	147%	-1%	3.33	3.72
7.32	1.40	146%	171%	Team 2: 2.5% 2003	147%	-1%	3.57	3.74
8.19	7.33	122%	105%	Team 2: 2.5% 2004	117%	-1%	3.31	3.78
8.65	7.96	107%	109%	Team 2: 4.5% 2002	115%	-1%	3.61	3.74

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Due to the continued growth of the office, the firm wishes to expand the team and is seeking an assistant solicitor who will play a key role in the development of the practice. It is essential that you have had exposure to at least one of the main areas of work and, equally as important, is the ability to handle a diverse workload and to give authoritative, commercial advice within the wider business context.

Whereas linguistic ability in Portuguese would be ideal, it is not initially essential. Our client envisages that you are a highly motivated individual who is seeking a new challenge in an environment which is both testing and stimulating. It is crucial that you are highly adaptable and capable of integrating quickly into a successful, close-knit and rewarding team.

Interviews will be held in London.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultant Peter Thompson, Solicitor, on 0171 831 2000 or write to him at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Fax: 0171 831 6662. Evenings/weekends on 0171 630 6079.



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LAW

● TIMES LAW AWARDS 37
● NEWS ROUND-UP 37

Despite renewed worries over peace, Edward Fennell finds practices still investing in Belfast



Belfast's well-protected law courts, close to the site where Kennedy's has opened the first fully-fledged office of a substantial London practice

Firm hopes for Ulster

Timing, they say, is everything. So what can be made of the recent decision by Kennedy's, the leading London insurance specialists, to open an office in Belfast?

Opinion among lawyers in Ulster is mixed. Some saw it as a calculated move by Kennedy's to be on the ground on behalf of the London insurance market as trouble resurfaced. Others saw the firm as being wrong-footed by recent events and now being stuck with an office it would be better off without.

Whatever the truth, the local insurance specialists are nervous about this new arrival on their doorstep. John Caldwell, a local lawyer who specialises in insurance, said: "Kennedy's Belfast firm, so it is obviously seen as a threat. It is here because it sees a commercial advantage in it."

Whether Kennedy's arrival

— opposite the law courts — will generate new work or cream it off from the locals, it is clear that Belfast has now got its first fully-fledged office of a substantial London practice. Other leading London firms (including Travers Smith, Bradburn & Co) have been rumoured to have looked at Belfast over the past 18 months but did not follow through (and now show no immediate signs of doing so).

Kennedy's, however, has made the investment. More over, Belfast is seen as being just the first step. According to a partner in the firm, it foresees the development of an all-Ireland practice as the next stage in its progress. He said: "We're bound to take an interest in developments in Dublin."

Northern Ireland itself, of course, is a small market and the Troubles deterred investment and kept commercial legal services at a relatively

low level. Since August 1994, however, business has grown very quickly and this was matched by several important developments in Belfast-Dublin co-operation among lawyers. One lawyer commented: "You must understand that there is a complete separation between business and politics here. We do business in an open way and are keen to co-operate with people on the other side of the border."

The best example came last autumn when, encouraged by the peace process, the Dublin firm of A&L Goodbody came to a formal arrangement with Elliott Duffy Garrett of Belfast. The two firms are now operating as a European Economic Interest Group and are exchanging staff, co-operating on transactions and showing all the signs of being an embryonic merger. According to Harry Coll of Elliott's, the practice grew strongly post-ceasefire with a 20 per cent rise

in staff. More important, it started to get into the kind of up-to-date commercial practice denied it while the bombs were going off. Mr Coll said: "We recruited people from Britain and felt we were entering the mainstream of legal practice. There was a feeling that we were comparable to Manchester or Newcastle."

Whether that momentum will be sustained is now the important question. John Cronin from McCann FitzGerald, the Dublin firm, commented that the past 18 months had given the Ulster business community much wider horizons and that recently there had been increasing investment activity from the North into the South. Such work was likely to continue, said Mr Cronin, what ever happened to the peace process. He said: "Over the

past 18 months we've all had to take account of deals in the North and take on an increased workload."

What was less certain was the investment in the other direction. According to Donal Roach of the Dublin firm Matheson Ormsby Prentice, there was bound to be a degree of uncertainty in the minds of the business community in the Republic about continuing to invest heavily in Belfast. Already lawyers have seen deals that they had nurtured for some time being put on hold as cautious investors opted to defer investments until the future becomes clearer.

Kennedy's seems undeterred. Like many new businesses which have opened in recent months, its office is staffed by Ulstermen who wanted to return home. They insist that continuing peace was not a condition of return — so let's hope they won't be disappointed.

The debt we owe to Honest Abe

None of the candidates seeking the Republican nomination to run for President of the United States this year could overcome the handicaps of a "long gaunt head capped by a shock of hair that seemed not to have been thoroughly brushed out", clothes that did not fit, a piercing voice, and a conversational technique consisting of "vulgar anecdotes at which he himself laughs uproariously". Yet with all these characteristics, Abraham Lincoln became the greatest of American Presidents, assassinated for his successful efforts to save the Union and to combat slavery.

Not the least of the merits of the brilliant new biography, *Lincoln*, by David Herbert Donald (Jonathan Cape, £30), is that it reminds the reader that Lincoln earned his living, and learnt many of his political skills, through practice as a lawyer in Illinois until his selection as Republican Party candidate in the presidential elections in 1860.

"discourage litigation". As he said in his notes for his law lecture, "persuade your neighbours to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser — in fees, expenses and waste of time... There will still be business enough." But if clients insisted on litigating, Lincoln would fight their case, fairly, but to the best of his ability. Donald rightly avoids repeating some of the less credible tales in Albert A. Woldman's pioneering 1926 study, *Lawyer Lincoln*, which suggested that Lincoln often turned cases away because of moral qualms about the client.

Donald explains how even a lawyer of Lincoln's skills suffered from the follies of unreasonable clients. After Lincoln won an important case for the Illinois Central Railroad in 1856, he submitted a bill for a fee of \$2,000. The railroad refused to pay. Lincoln then sent in a revised bill for \$5,000, sued his ungrateful client, argued the case himself, and won.



COUNSEL
DAVID
PANNUCK QC

By the time he left for Washington in 1861, Lincoln had appeared before the Illinois Supreme Court in more than 300 cases, as well as travelling the circuit arguing all types of claims, and representing clients in federal courts. Lincoln's skill was based on personality and judgment. He was "a master of the homespun anecdote to illustrate his point". Jurors could understand and accept his arguments because, a reporter noted, they contained "no false glitter, no sickly sentimentalism", and his focused advocacy "forces conviction upon the mind".

For many years Lincoln's firm had no filing system, and he "frequently stuck documents and correspondence in his stovepipe hat". Where other lawyers would object to the admissibility of an unimportant piece of evidence, Lincoln "would say he reckoned it would be fair to let this in". When he did make an objection, on a crucial issue, his argument carried more weight. Hence, as another lawyer observed, anyone "who took Lincoln for a simple-minded man would very soon wake up with his back in a ditch".

His reputation was built on integrity. As a lawyer, Lincoln became known as "Honest Abe". In notes for a lecture on the law, written in about 1850, he commented on the "vague popular belief that lawyers are necessarily dishonest". In Lincoln's opinion, a young lawyer should "resolve to be honest at all events; and if, in your own judgment, you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation."

Like all good lawyers, Lincoln appreciated that the role of a legal adviser was to

impeded by timid generals afraid to move their armies into battle, and distracted by domestic strife and sorrow.

It is ironic that the American President who was most influenced by, and best embodied, the values of legalism was compelled by civil war to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and defy Chief Justice Taney.

The 1863 Gettysburg Address, invoking "a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal", was Lincoln's greatest achievement as an advocate. As Gary Wills argued in *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, Lincoln persuaded Americans to accept a new set of radical values. Most of Donald's inspiring account of Lincoln's life focuses, rightly, on Lincoln the politician, but no one who wants to understand how Abraham Lincoln created modern America can ignore Lincoln the lawyer.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Tradition comes to a head

Down in Dublin's four courts, where the bulk of the Republic's legal business is conducted, barely a couple of dozen of the 980 practising barristers have taken up their new-found opportunity to discard their wigs.

Their reluctance is despite a lead from the Attorney-General, Dermot Lennon, SC, and the chairman of the Irish Bar Council, James Nugent, SC. (The SC stands for Senior Counsel, into which the Republic's King's Counsel were transmuted after independence. In most other respects the Irish Bar has retained its pre-independence traditions.)

The option of removing horsehair wigs came about under the Courts and Court Officers Act, a substantial

measure which promises to transform both the judicial appointment system and the way courts are administered. The Bill initially proposed outlawing the wearing of wigs, so giving effect to long-standing commitments from all political parties to scrap what are widely seen as imperial trappings.

Instead, the option was retained after skilful parliamentary manoeuvring by the Bar Council, and a last-minute lobby described by one backbencher as "awesome" success.

Faced with certain defeat on a populist measure, the Bar Council shifted ground

and lobbied instead for wigs to be optional rather than compulsory, portraying the move as a reasonable compromise. The Justice Minister, Nora Owen, however, held fast. But at the report stage, before a virtually empty House, she accepted a last-minute amendment tabled by the finance spokesman of one opposition party, Michael McDowell, and supported by the defence spokesman of the other, David Andrews.

Their respective colleagues, the Justice spokesman who had made the running on the Bill and forcefully supported a wigs ban, stayed silent. Messrs

McDowell and Andrews are both well-known barristers. The outcome has been much as forecast. The ending of a uniform practice, it was argued, would introduce uncertainty that could not be good for the justice system. Barristers have now to decide for themselves how best to dress — both before juries in criminal trials, and before individual judges, some of whom have strong traditional views on court dress.

Despite a written instruction from the Chief Justice against any judicial comment on the issue, few barristers seem ready to take a chance. Although many originally spoke out against wigs, few have yet been brave enough to cast them aside.

Kieran Conway on why few Irish barristers want to appear wigless

PPS for Lord Mackay

THE Lord Chancellor has appointed a parliamentary private secretary — Peter Luff, MP for Worcester and campaigner against teenage sex magazines.

The move comes after Lord Mackay of Clashfern was forced to back down by a group of MPs over his domestic violence proposals — some MPs argued that he needed someone to be his "eyes and ears" in the Commons.

Luff, and Jonathan Evans, MP, the new junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, provide a team which it is hoped will bring the department — traditionally

seen as a bit of an oddity — more into the Whitehall mainstream.

● THE LONDON firm of Berwin Leighton is closing its New York office at the end of the month. Opened in 1982, the office practised American law but has turned into a loss-making proposition. Most of the staff have already found other jobs.

Advocate test

A SENIOR solicitor advocate has challenged established barristers to see for themselves how difficult the Law

Society qualification test for Higher Court Advocacy is.

Christopher Gaskell, a partner at the Crewe firm of Keith Cutler & Co, has been ruled by the reported comments of the Bar Council vice-chairman Robert Owen, QC, that poor test results appear to bear out the Bar's contention that "advocacy is best conducted by full-time advocates".

Mr Gaskell wants the Bar to put up its own candidates, of between five and 15 years' call, for the course. "It is a student test but it is taken by established practitioners who are far removed from their student days," he says.

ANYONE who doubted the bravery of Sir Richard Scott when taking on the arms-to-Iraq inquiry just had to look in November 1990's issue of *Horse & Hound*.

A renowned hunting man, Sir Richard is joint master of the Mid-Surrey Farmers' Draghounds with Mr Justice Cazalet.

The latter had penned a poem in praise of Sir Richard's bravery in jumping the notorious Pug's Hole, a 6ft hedge with a 7ft drop on the other side, concluding: "There are Scotts who are famed in history/There's the Scott who found the Pole/But this judge they'll all remember/as the Scott who rode Pug's Hole."

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You will be able to discuss opportunities in private practice within your preferred geographical location in a relaxed and unpressurised environment. Information on many firms will be provided, but in order to ensure confidentiality, no employers will be invited to attend.

Places are limited and are on a first come first served basis. You are, therefore, advised to register your interest early.

For more information and a formal invitation, please contact Sharon Black on 0171 404 4646 (evenings 0181 597 5060). Daniels Bates Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 7969.

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Ref: 25785

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Leading investment body engaged in projects in both the private and public sectors, seeks a lawyer with 2 years' ppe in banking/project finance and fluency in French or Spanish.

Ref: 28248

To discuss these opportunities in total confidence please contact Claire Hine LLB (Hons) or Gill Newman BA (Hons). Alternatively, send your CV to either of them at the address opposite:

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Ideally a senior practitioner with more than 20 years' experience, the Ombudsman will almost certainly have a legal qualification as a solicitor or barrister (in private practice, industry or the public sector), or as a member of the judiciary. Crucially, the Ombudsman will demonstrate strong leadership skills, as well as the stature to command respect. A strong intellectual ability is essential, as is a genuine interest in dealing fairly and independently with complainants and banks.

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For further information in complete confidence, please write to Gareth Quarry or June Mesrie at Quarry Douglall Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH (confidential fax 0171-831 6394) with a full Curriculum Vitae explaining why you are interested in this position. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall.



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THE INSTITUTE OF ART AND LAW

The Institute of Art and Law will be continuing its series of TRANSACTIONS IN ART seminars: the fourth seminar in the series, ART EXPORT LICENSING AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET will be held in association with the international law firm Clyde & Co, in London on March 19; the fifth seminar, ART, ANTIQUITY AND THE CRIMINAL LAW will be held, in association with the British Museum, in London on March 27.

For further details please contact the Director, at: 47 Francis Street, Leicester LE2 2BE.

Tel/Fax: 0116 244 8870.

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The appointment is likely to be on a full-time basis but some flexibility on hours could be offered.

This assignment is being handled for Macfarlanes on an exclusive basis by ZMB. For further information in complete confidence please contact Jonathan Macrae or Miranda Smyth on 0171-377 0510 (0171-359 5212 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail: joe@zmb.co.uk

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Applicants should have achieved at least an upper second class degree and to have passed or be expected to pass all heads of the English Law Society or Bar final examinations at the first attempt. Aptitude, commitment and an ability to work as part of a team are key qualities which the successful applicants will possess. Newly qualified solicitors or barristers will also be considered.

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The Staff Partner, Cains Advocates, 15-19 Athol Street, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 1LB

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To apply, please write in own hand, enclosing a full CV, to: John Wright at the address below.

Closing date for applications: 29 February 1996.

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TIMES/ONE ESSEX COURT LAW AWARDS

AN ENGLISH graduate now reading law at Nottingham University is the winner of the first prize of £3,000 in the Times Law Awards 1995 competition sponsored by One Essex Court.

Renuka Kukanesen, 23, the niece of a Singaporean High Court judge, is in her second year of an LLB course and plans to go to the Bar. "I would like to become a barrister — I have family who are lawyers and also I have strong respect for the traditions at the Bar. It is a very good thing — any fine-tuning should not mean you have to change it fundamentally."

Ms Kukanesen, who read English at Oxford before embarking on law, said she was encouraged in her career by her father, an assistant registrar in the industrial courts in Kuala Lumpur.

Her winning essay, *Advocacy — has it a future?* is published below. She and the other prize

winners received their awards from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, at a dinner hosted by One Essex Court at the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn.

The second prize of £2,000 went to James Nicholls, a mature student at the University of North London, and the third prize of £1,000 to Christopher Daniels, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. The runners-up, who received £250 each, were Philip Daniels, Jasbir Dhillon and Daniel Raglan.

The sponsorship of the competition by a set of chambers instead of a law firm is a first. Anthony Grabiner, QC, head of the chambers, said he was delighted to support the awards, which encouraged young people into the profession and "perhaps to become successful, efficient and courageous advocates".

The chambers announced it would be sponsoring the awards next year.



Winner Renuka Kukanesen is presented with the first prize of £3,000 by Lord Mackay of Clashfern

Advocacy — has it a future?

In her award-winning essay, Renuka Kukanesen says we must not sacrifice advocacy in the name of efficiency

Advocacy, the *raison d'être* of the barrister's trade, is dying. Opinions vary as to why. Some see the profession inevitably swallowed up and lost within the newly swollen boundaries of the solicitor's trade. Others think that it is the prolific numbers of lawyers that have swamped the profession in recent years.

The actual answer, as I see it, is quite absurd. In the words of the immaculate Desdemona: "Nobody, I myself." It was the lawyers themselves who were unwittingly responsible when, in the 1960s, they introduced that modern Trojan Horse, the photocopy. Instantly, there was no longer a compelling reason to pare trial documents down to the relevant. Reams of potential documents issued forth. That chief organ of practicable advocacy, the short and succinct trial, was almost entirely destroyed. Where even a long trial was once a matter of weeks, the longest now lasts over a year. This is undoubtedly the crux of the matter. Barristers in court (like solicitors outside it) are taking too long about their business. Neither private client nor Crown can realistically afford to go to trial any more. And it follows that if there are no paying clients, there is nobody for whom to advocate and thus no legal profession.

I am astonished, nonetheless, that rather than stage a rescue, some of the high deities of the legal profession have thought fit to sound the death knell for old-school advocacy. Among the highest is Lord Woolf. Rather than limiting proposals to curtailing courtroom time for barristers, his report appears to attack the fundamentals of the adversarial system itself. In place of independent parties presenting their arguments and evidence to a neutral referee the report proposes the Judge-Manager. This apparently benevolent creature will transform the legal system by telling the parties what to do.

Nonetheless, the report's somewhat Dickensian metaphors are darkly suggestive. The new judge is not entirely unlike a prison warden, and lawyers, captives who have lost their "sole and unfettered control over the way in which the case proceeds". The justification for this new judicial stance comes partly from a resonant image of Lord Devlin: without draconian change, lawyers might find themselves on a bread-and-water diet — not unlike that of some of their more unfortunate clients. Lord Woolf, it seems, has tried the

lawyers and found them guilty of killing the proverbial goose.

If advocacy is choking on the inefficiency bone, is the only remedy hanging the dog? There is the scent of a parallel mood across the Atlantic. Leading academics in a belligerent, post-Simpson America appear to believe that adversarialism has had its day. As the trial dragged on, it was no longer O.J. Simpson but American justice itself that was on trial. And the verdict was against advocacy. Whether or not the accused had clean hands at the end of the day, his lawyers most certainly did not. "Money talks, client walks" was John Langfield's bitter comment in *Newsweek*. If adversarialism has failed the cause of justice, Europe's inquisitorial judges are logically the only way left to proceed.

The American experience should not be allowed to determine the future of advocacy in this country. Their predicament is perhaps more dire than ours. The Simpson defence found themselves constrained by very little in their efforts to deflect some deeply damning evidence away from their client. British advocates, on the other hand, might thoroughly lack effi-

ciency, but not integrity. Or finesse. In the hands of the Simpson defence, the sword of justice was brandished with all the subtlety of a sledge-hammer. Its use was apparently confined to bludgeoning the jury into submission. I like to think that our advocates are cut from a finer cloth.

We have been brought up with a sense of almost priestly detachment — our first duty is to the established process of justice, and this is drummed into us by the example as well as the words of our elders. Winning a case is not what it's about, our duty is to struggle for a fair trial within the confines of the system — a system defined by centuries of tradition and mannered politeness. The Americans do not have these advantages and restraints. (Keith Evans)

The tradition of adversarialism in this country has proven itself capable of producing independent and principled warriors in the case of justice. Their most profound defects are no worse than that they are less than efficient (and perhaps tend not to be overly modest). In

making them more efficient, there is no reason why we should have to chain them to the judicial seat.

There is a simple solution. The professional code of practice should be extended to prevent barristers from wasting the court's time and compliance should be exacting. Barristers should expect to be blacklisted by the Bar Council if allegations are proved reasonably correct. Now that Law Society disciplinary hearings are open to the public there ought to be no question but that the barrister's conduct was fairly and honestly assessed. If barristers are thus pressured into tightening up their performance, efficiency must inevitably improve.

Truly independent advocates are the finest guarantee against oppression by the State that a legal system can produce. When citizens of this country are not protected by a Bill of Rights, reformers should be slow to recommend a European trial system where judges have significant control over both the conduct and outcome of the trial.

By wresting "sole and unfettered" control of the trial process from these agents, the scope of natural justice as we know it would be drastically curtailed.

The archetypal old-style advocate is a creature worthy of aspiration: the judicial lap-dog which threatens to take its place is not.

LEGAL NEWS ROUND-UP

Student shortfall warning

SIGNS OF a fall in the numbers of students wanting to go into law have prompted predictions from the Law Society of a shortage of suitable candidates by 1997.

Despite the massive surplus of students seeking training places with law firms in recent years, there is now a fall in the numbers entering the Legal Practice Course — the one-year vocational course after a degree. At the same time, more training contracts with firms have come online.

According to a report from the society's training committee, there are 852 unfilled LPC places this year, on both the full-time and part-time courses. Applications for places on the full-time courses starting in September have fallen by 1,364, compared with the year before. It is possible that the numbers of students completing the course in 1997 will exceed "only marginally" the numbers of training contracts, it says.

Simon Baker, the committee chairman, welcomed the move towards a better match of applicants to places. "The serious over-supply of applicants to the profession seems to be correcting itself without the need for direct intervention."

Schools trials

CHERIE BOOTH, QC, will launch a new Mock Trial competition tomorrow for schools. The competition will involve pupils aged 12 to 14 and will be based in magistrates' courts.

The Citizenship Foundation, which organises the competition, hopes it will become an annual event similar to the one it holds annually for older pupils, with support from the Bar Council.

The launch of the finals in the latter event will take place on March 12, with the draw of finalist schools being made by Mrs Justice Arden, the chairman of the Law Commission.

Costs seminar

PAUL BOATENG, MP, Labour's legal affairs spokesman,

will spar tonight with top legal figures, including Lord Woolf, Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former Bar chairman, and David McIntosh, a senior partner of the City law firm of Davies Arnold Cooper.

The latter firm has organised a seminar at the Law Society on a subject near to the profession's heart — legal costs. Mr McIntosh intends to use the occasion for another blast at what he calls "the lack of a value for money" culture in legal services. He will also launch the firm's new protocol on client fees and expenses, which is aimed at introducing more "accountability" into lawyers' bills.

Lloyd's lease

THE RECENT sale of the Lloyd's building to the German fund Despa for £180 million is thought to be the first big sale and leaseback. It will be leased back to Lloyd's at current market levels since the Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Act 1995 came into force.

Jeremy Brooks, at the law firm of Walton & Morse, which led the legal team for Lloyd's, says: "Many speculated that sale and leasebacks would be a victim of the new legislation but this deal shows that this is not so where a high-quality tenant and product is involved."

Injuries practice

THE country's biggest personal injuries law practice will come into being on May 1 with the merger of Robin Thompson & Partners and Brian Thompson & Partners (Thompsons). The merger will bring together some dozen offices throughout the country and a depth of expertise both in personal injuries and trade union law. The firm will act only for the injured party.

Fund review

A LEADING insurance firm, Berrymans, is urging a review of the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund. Law Society proposals to link lawyers' premiums to their claims records are not enough, it says. Berrymans is questioning the rule by which firms must arrange the first £1 million of cover through the fund, not the open market. This discriminates against firms which are trouble-free, it says.

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Excellent opportunity exists for bright, highly motivated 1-4 year qualified lawyer to join high profile IP Department of top ten City firm. Diverse client base ranges from entrepreneurial computer companies to hi-tech consumer goods. A high level of immediate client contact is actively encouraged. Ideal candidate will have gained either contentious or non-contentious experience in a recognized practice. (Ref.6352)

UNUSUAL BANKING

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Duty to house EU nationals

Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte Castell
Regina v Same, Ex parte Tristán-García
Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas
[Judgment February 21]

European Union nationals who entered the UK lawfully and whose circumstances then changed so that they could be required to leave the country, but who had not overstayed a limited leave to remain nor been told that the Home Secretary had decided that they should be removed, were persons to whom a local authority owed duties under sections 62 and 63 of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing appeals by Mr Gaudenzio Castell and Mr José Tristán-García against the decision of Mr Roger Henderson, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge (The Times October 20, 1995) upholding Westminster City Council's refusal to provide them with temporary accommodation on the ground that they were unlawfully present in the UK and, therefore, not persons to whom any duty was owed under section 63.

The appellants, an Italian and a Spaniard, entered the UK lawfully as they were looking for work or self-employment but they then became ill and were unable to support themselves.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Jan Luba for the appellants; Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr Clive Hugh Jones for the council.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that section 63 of the 1985 Act imposed an interim duty on local housing authorities to provide temporary accommodation for an applicant whom they had reason to believe might be homeless and have a priority need, pending their decision on his application for housing on the ground of homelessness under section 62.

The applicant in section 63 was the "person" who had made the application under section 62.

There was no express restriction in the Act on the kinds or categories of persons who might apply. However, no duty was owed under the Act to a person who was an illegal entrant to the UK or who had overstayed the period for which he was granted leave to enter: see *R v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Streeting* [1980] 1 WLR 1425, 1434.

Those who entered the UK without leave or in breach of a deportation order, or who overstayed after a limited leave was given, and who did so knowingly, committed a criminal offence under section 24 of the Immigration Act 1971.

Neither of the appellants had committed any offence. The issue

was whether they belonged to some wider category of persons to whom no such duty was owed by the council. The category could be described as "those who were not lawfully here". [In *Ex parte Streeting* Lord Justice Dunn had said (at p.1437): "The only limitation to the word 'person' is that he should be a person who is lawfully here..."]

European nationals did not need leave to enter and remain in the UK for specified purposes under Community law. The Immigration (European Economic Area) Order (SI 1994 No 1895) created a right of residence for a "qualified person" for as long as he remains a qualified person and provided means whereby those who ceased to be qualified persons could be brought within the procedures and appeals machinery of the 1971 Act. Such persons, merely by staying on, did not commit a criminal offence.

Both the appellants entered the UK lawfully but without leave because, as they had been seeking employment or self-employment, they had come within the definition of "qualified person" in article 6(1).

The judge had held that the appellants had ceased to be within the definition of "qualified person" by that time the council's decisions were made.

There was no appeal against that finding. Neither of them had applied for or been granted leave to remain in the UK. But the Home Office was not aware of their situations.

What was the appellants' status when they had ceased in fact to be qualified persons within the statutory definition, yet they had not entered the country unlawfully and the secretary of state had not decided that they should be removed from the country, as he had power to do?

Should they be regarded as persons who were not lawfully here, and if so, were they, as such, outside the scope of the council's duty towards homeless persons, as the council contended?

Or did section 63 of the 1985 Act extend to all persons except only those who by reason of criminal activity or who were otherwise in breach of the immigration laws had deprived themselves of the right to take advantage of it?

The appellants submitted that in the absence of any express restriction the word "person" had to be given its normal, unqualified meaning.

Those who were unable to apply for accommodation under the Act, such as illegal entrants and overstayers, were prevented from doing so not because the meaning was restricted or subject to an implied limitation, but because they had disqualified themselves from relying upon the Act, by conduct which had been criminal

or, at least, in breach of the immigration laws.

The council submitted that the guiding principle was found in section 12 of the 1971 Act. Those who did not have right of abode required permission in accordance with the Act to enter the UK or to remain here. If granted leave, then when the leave expired they ceased to have the requisite permission and they were no longer lawfully here. Because their continued presence was unlawful, they ceased to be persons lawfully here, for whose benefit the homelessness provisions of the 1985 Act were enacted.

Mr Tristán-García. On April 4, 1995 the Home Office had written to Mr Tristán-García saying: "The secretary of state is not satisfied that you are lawfully resident here under EC law and you should now make arrangements to leave the UK. I should add that if you do not leave the UK on a voluntary basis then, in the present circumstances of your case, we will not take steps to enforce your departure from the UK."

If the council was correct and Mr Tristán-García required permission to remain in the UK, then it was clear that permission was given, albeit in those vague and ambiguous terms. Far from informing him that the secretary of state had decided that he should be removed or that he would be deported under the immigration laws, the letter said that the secretary of state had made a contrary decision.

For that reason alone Mr Tristán-García could not be regarded as not lawfully here when the council decided that he was.

Mr Castell. In Mr Castell's case there had been no determination or expression of view by the Home Office and so it was necessary to consider whether the council had been entitled to decide that because he had ceased to be a qualified person under the immigration rules he was no longer a person for the purposes of sections 62 and 63 of the 1985 Act.

The arguments were nicely balanced and it was appropriate to give some weight to the practical consequences if one or the other was correct.

The appellants were entitled to say that it might be difficult to know precisely when the qualification ceased, particularly if an entrant who was seeking work could be regarded as continuing to do so even during periods of sickness as he could be as a worker if his employment was interrupted for that reason.

More fundamentally, the entrant's status as a lawful resident ought to be determined in accordance with the statutory procedures rather than left to depend

upon the automatic consequences of chance events.

The council on the other hand could point to the fact which was recognised in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Tower Hamlets London Borough Council* [1993] QB 652 that it was only when the person concerned applied for security benefits or for medical treatment, or for accommodation under the 1985 Act, or the like, that those authorities or the Home Office, were likely to become aware of any change in the person's status after he had entered the country.

If he was regarded as "lawfully here" unless and until some further steps were taken by the secretary of state, then he became an additional burden on housing authorities even at a time when, if the Home Office had been aware of the facts, the secretary of state might have been expected to formalise his status in some way.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the appellants' submission should be preferred. The Immigration Acts and the regulations made under them were intended to regulate the status of non-British European nationals in accordance with this country's treaty obligations.

They provided for the necessary exemptions in accordance with Community law and they created machinery which enabled cases where the right to exemption came to an end to be brought within the statutory procedures, including appeals, which were required to safeguard the rights of individuals when disputes arose.

It was not necessary to regard the individual as "not lawfully here" during the period when those procedures were or could be operated. But it was sufficient for present purposes to hold that a European national who had, or might have, ceased to be a qualified person in fact, but who had not been given and overstayed a limited leave to remain and had not been informed that the secretary of state had decided that he should be removed, did not belong to a category of persons "not lawfully here" who were not to be regarded as "persons" for the purposes of sections 62 and 63.

There was no obligation on such persons under the immigration laws to apply for leave to remain, limited or otherwise and they could not properly be regarded as being in breach of those laws by reason of their failure to do so.

Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas gave concurring judgments but said that the standard Home Office letter sent to Mr Tristán-García did not amount to permission to remain in the UK.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners and Ms Kate Jones, Camden; Mr Colin Wilson, Westminster.

Mulcahy v Ministry of Defence
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice McCowan and Sir Iain Gledhill
[Judgment February 21]

One soldier did not owe to another a duty of care in tort when engaging the enemy in the course of hostilities.

Furthermore, there was no duty on the Ministry of Defence to maintain a safe system of work in battle conditions. Accordingly, a soldier who was injured in battle conditions did not have a cause of action in negligence against the Ministry.

The Court of Appeal said that the Ministry of Defence was not liable to a soldier who was injured in battle conditions. The Ministry of Defence was not liable to a soldier who was injured in battle conditions.

In 1991 the plaintiff was a serving soldier in the 3rd Heavy Artillery Regiment. His claim was for personal injury sustained in the course of the Gulf War when a shell was fired from a howitzer at the Iraqis. He claimed that his hearing was damaged as a result of the negligence of the gun commander, Sergeant Warren, a fellow soldier.

Mr Philip Havers, QC and Mr Ian Burnet for the plaintiff; Mr Simon Haversworth, QC and Mr David Grippen for the Ministry of Defence.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the plaintiff was in a war zone taking part in warfare operations and he was a member of a gun crew which was engaged in firing shells on enemy targets.

It was to be remembered that the primary claim by the plaintiff against the defendants was on the basis that the Ministry was liable vicariously for the negligence of Sergeant Warren.

Nevertheless, it was necessary to consider the law relating to the liability of the Crown in tort because the relevant legislation and the common law cases might throw light on the questions raised in the appeal and because the plaintiff's alternative claim was a direct claim against the Ministry.

Until 1947, actions against the Crown were inhibited by two principles of ancient although doubtful origin. The first was that the King could not be impleaded in his own courts; the second was the principle that the King could do no wrong.

The immunity of the Crown against proceedings in tort was fundamentally changed by section 2 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 which, however, contained special provisions relating to the armed forces.

The effect of section 10 of the 1947 Act was to prevent proceedings being brought in respect of the death of or personal injury to a member of the armed forces caused by the negligence of another member of the armed forces provided that the secretary of state issued a certificate that the death or injury was attributable to service for the purposes of entitlement to a war pension.

Subsequently, the Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Act 1987 was passed to remove the blanket protection of section 10 of the 1947 Act. Provision was made, however, for the revival of section 10 in certain circumstances.

Under section 2(3)(b) of the 1987 Act the secretary of state was empowered to make an order reviving the effect of section 10 of the 1947 Act for "the purposes of any warlike operations in any part of the world outside the United Kingdom". It will be seen that under section 2(3) an order reviving section 10 could be restricted to any particular circumstances or persons which the secretary of state considered appropriate.

Accordingly, it seemed plain that the secretary of state could have made an order reviving section 10 for the purposes of the Gulf War and have restricted the operation of section 10 to certain specified areas in the Middle East or to certain specified activities. But no order was made under section 2 of the 1987 Act.

It was accepted on behalf of the defendants that there was no direct English authority to support the proposition that no duty of care in tort was owed by one soldier to another when engaging the enemy in battle conditions.

Reliance was placed, however, on (a) the decisions of the High Court of Australia in *Shaw Savill*

and *Albion Co Ltd v The Commonwealth* (1940) 66 CLR 344 and *Groves v Commonwealth of Australia* (1962) 150 CLR 113; (b) dicta in *Burmah Oil Co Ltd v Lord Advocate* (1965) AC 75; and (c) cases involving injuries to police officers while engaged on operational duty.

In his Lordship's judgment, the circumstances in which the plaintiff was injured clearly constituted "battle conditions" in the sense contemplated by Lord Reid, Lord Pearce and Lord Upjohn in the *Burmah Oil* case. Furthermore, his Lordship considered that an English court should approach the claim in the same way as the High Court of Australia in the *Shaw Savill* case.

In addition it might be helpful if his Lordship stated what his conclusion would be even in the absence of the Australian decisions and the *Burmah Oil* case.

It was true that the secretary of state, by exercising his powers under section 2 of the 1987 Act could have reintroduced the immunity conferred by section 10 of the 1947 Act. But in the absence of that statutory protection one still had to consider the position at common law. It was therefore necessary to consider whether there was no basis for extending the scope of the duty so far.

His Lordship would reach the same conclusion on the plaintiff's alternative claim. There was no duty on the defendants in those battle conditions to maintain a safe system of work. His Lordship would strike out the statement of claim and dismiss the action.

Lord Justice McCowan agreed and Sir Iain Gledhill gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Wilkinson Woodward & Ludlam, Halifax.

Deportation order quashed through lack of reasons

Regina v Balaifa
Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Curran and Mr Justice Gage
[Judgment February 26]

Because a judge made a recommendation for deportation of an offender without giving reasons for having made it, the recommendation was quashed by the Court of Appeal.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by Idris Balaifa, aged 42, against a recommendation for deportation made by Judge Hamilton at Liverpool Crown Court, in October 1994, that he be deported when he was convicted of destroying a house and damaging 14 others and two cars, in each case being reckless whether the lives of others would be thereby endangered, and of two offences of attempting to obtain the proceeds of insurance policies by deception, for which he was sentenced to a total of 12 years, reduced on a previous appeal to nine years.

Mr Donald Peter Herbert, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

MR JUSTICE GAGE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the sole point of the present appeal was whether the recommendation for deportation was valid.

In *R v Rodney* (unreported, January 18, 1996 CA) Mr Justice Balaifa, giving the judgment of the court, had said that the trial judge in that case said merely: "I make a recommendation for your deportation" and said no more. The judge might have had all the matters that

offences of attempting to obtain the proceeds of insurance policies by deception, for which he was sentenced to a total of 12 years, reduced on a previous appeal to nine years.

Mr Donald Peter Herbert, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

MR JUSTICE GAGE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the sole point of the present appeal was whether the recommendation for deportation was valid.

In *R v Rodney* (unreported, January 18, 1996 CA) Mr Justice Balaifa, giving the judgment of the court, had said that the trial judge in that case said merely: "I make a recommendation for your deportation" and said no more. The judge might have had all the matters that

had been drawn to his attention by counsel in mind but unfortunately had not referred to them.

Mr Justice Balaifa went on: "He should have done so... and we would like to take this opportunity of stressing that it is of crucial importance that judges, in cases where they are considering a recommendation for deportation, if they are minded to make such a recommendation they should give their reasons in a little detail."

The reasons had to be set out because there was no right of appeal to the Home Secretary, only to the Court of Appeal against a recommendation for deportation, in accordance with section 6(5) of the Immigration Act 1971.

The recommendation for deportation was quashed.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Some of the greatest paintings by Velázquez and Caravaggio come to Britain for the first time



■ VISUAL ART 2

A fresh eye in Halifax: German artist Georg Herold recasts the materials of heavy industry

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

... while more evocative jumble is craftily assembled by Mike Nelson at Matt's Gallery



■ TOMORROW

Who should seize power in the concrete bunker? Benedict Nightingale on the National race

Masterpieces from the Doria Pamphilj collection reach London — plus, what it is like to own them; and other shows

Private treasures go public

Pride of Pope and princes

Before Francis Bacon made him scream in the early 1950s, Pope Innocent X must have seemed a formidable and magnificent figure. When Velázquez painted him 300 years earlier, the sumptuous and incisive result swiftly came to be regarded as a landmark among 17th-century portraits. According to one of Innocent's contemporaries, his face "was the most deformed ever born among men". But Velázquez, while defining the Pope's williness trenchantly enough, transformed him into an epitome of masterful grandeur. Ugliness is not a word that comes to mind when we look at this mesmerising canvas. Velázquez's mercurial brushwork is so beguiling, and Innocent's expression so alert, that we cannot help being impressed by the potency of a resplendent grandeur.

All the same, Bacon's brutal intervention alerts us to the darker side of Velázquez's portrait. Refusing to see the original painting in Rome, for fear that it might inhibit him, Bacon turned Innocent X into a howling victim. Trapped within a cage-like structure which underlines his helplessness and isolation, the Pope became a searing symbol of humanity abandoned by God. Bacon's successive variations on the theme soon turned his perturbed pontiff into an icon for the age of existential anxiety. The apparent poise of Velázquez's portrait had been challenged, encouraging everyone to search for signs of instability in the original.

Ever since it was painted, Velázquez's canvas has remained in the same family collection. Normally housed in the Doria Pamphilj Gallery in Rome, it — along with other works from this distinguished collection — has now left Italy for the first time. It is an exciting event for anyone who cares about European art. Several paintings show their creators at their peak, and Caravaggio's *Rest during the Flight into Egypt* is unlike anything else he produced. Although a youthful work, it already shows his audacity to the full. Breaking free from the subjects' previous depictions, he places in the very centre of his complex design the *lissom* figure of an angel. A strong afternoon light lands forcibly on his flesh, enhancing the body's voluptuous appeal. Neither his wings nor the swirling linen drapery detracts from the angel's provocative sensuality. He is a radiant intruder, but his violin playing brings comfort to the exhausted Holy Family.

To the left, Joseph gazes in awe at the divine music-maker and holds up the score of a motet written in honour of the Madonna. Just above the angel's slanting bow, the donkey

trains a doting eye on the violinist as well. But Joseph and his animal inhabit a far more shadowy region, where broken stones lie scattered on the ground. It contrasts with the other side of the picture, where plants spring from the earth while the Virgin leans her head on the Christ child and holds him close. Warmed by the same light that bathes the angel, they form the most tender grouping to be found in Caravaggio's work. The autumnal countryside beyond, where burnished trees blaze softly above a river, suggests that Caravaggio could easily have won renown as a consummate landscape painter.

He chose instead to concentrate on a far more shadowy world, where the chiaroscuro eventually becomes so all-enveloping that it obliterates everything except the drama between figures.

Happily, though, the Doria Pamphilj collection also contains Annibale Carracci's interpretation of the flight into Egypt theme. Painted around 1604, only a few years after Caravaggio's version, this utterly harmonious scene subordinates the fleeing figures to the landscape around them. Restfulness is the keynote of this measured setting, which had an incalculable influence on the development of ideal landscape painting during the 17th century. But its innovative importance is now hard to appreciate, whereas Caravaggio's risk-taking intensity still generates a real sense of wonder.

All the most outstanding images on view here concentrate on the figure. Raphael's double portrait, possibly of his friends Andrea Navagero and Agostino Beaziano, is a powerful, enigmatic work. Perhaps some of its mystery is caused by dirt, obscuring the green background and weakening the solidity of both sitters' bodies. But Raphael never painted a more brooding face than the heavily bearded man on the left, staring out at us over his shoulder. He seems reluctant to submit himself to our inspection, and maybe resentful that the privacy of conversation with his friend has been invaded. There is a latent anger in his guarded expression, whereas his companion turns towards us with a far more open attitude.

Clean-shaven and equable, the latter's face is less shadowy. He seems willing to be interrupted, and the patience in his lean features makes the other man look still more defensive and quick-tempered.

If Raphael turns his trenchantly contrasted friends into a dark and conspiratorial drama, Titian treats his violent theme as the springboard for a graceful, sensuous masterpiece. Usually entitled *Salome*, it is now put forward as Judith with the Head of Holo-



"One of Titian's most captivating female images," *Salome with the Head of Saint John the Baptist*, now in London

fernes. But Titian ensures that there is nothing bloodthirsty about the woman holding the decapitated head on a dish. She turns her head away from the bearded trophy, as if wanting to dissociate herself from the butchery.

Whether Judith or Salome, this auburn-tressed beauty is one of Titian's most captivating female images. While tresses cascade down one side of her face, a single ringlet hovers on the other. Titian sets up a similar counterpoint below, covering half her chest with a warm, red robe, while pulling the chemise away from the flesh near by.

At once bountiful and discreet, the woman stares dreamily down in the direction of the dead man's head. But she also seems to be listening to the maid behind, who gazes up at her mistress with a devotion bordering on out-

right infatuation. The ardour flowing between the two women enhances the erotic mood; and Titian introduces unexpected tension in the winged cupid beyond, about to fall from an archway in his apparent eagerness to reach the delectable heroine.

Above all, though, I found myself returning again and again to Velázquez's portrait. Flanked by two Baroque busts of the same sitter, by Algardi and Bernini, this subtle painting presides over the show with effortless authority. First impressions focus on its chromatic splendour. Velázquez has placed the crimson-caped Innocent in a deep red velvet armchair, and swathed the entire background in a smouldering maroon curtain. Partially offset by his white gown, and the letter bearing Velázquez's own name, the redness still saturates the en-

tire painting. The papal cape seems to be wet with its richness, as the artist appears to float his pigment on the surface of the canvas.

Armed with our knowledge of Bacon's versions, however, we cannot help finding disquiet beneath this seductive finery. Why does Innocent clasp the tantalising letter, in a hand tensely at variance with the limp fingers dangling down from the chair's other arm? He could almost be daring the artist to reach out and take the document, but the fierce eyes beneath his scowling brow warn against such presumption. They are cunning and suspicious, revealing the vigilance of a man forever plotting his next manoeuvre in the Byzantine complexity of the Vatican.

Innocent was halfway through his papacy when Velázquez painted him, and he

looks like a man embroiled in intrigues. No hint of relaxation can be detected in his features. Wariness prevails, and behind his armchair Velázquez has freely brushed in a tall shadow spreading like a stain across the curtain. It heightens the theatricality inherent in his opulent scene, and at the same time increases the feeling of disquiet. For the shadow lurks beside the pontiff as an unexplained spectre, waiting to ambush him and snuff out all his pomp and sheen. Innocent lived for another five years after Velázquez painted him, but death already seems imminent in this deceptively lustrous effigy.

RICHARD CORK

Masterpieces from the Doria Pamphilj Gallery at the National Gallery, London WC2 (0171-8393321) until May 19

The works have been like this for 200 years and are fine as they are

Despite Italy's great tradition of art collection over many centuries there is only one private collection left that is still open to the public, and that is the Doria Pamphilj gallery in Rome. Little publicised, with something of the air of an undiscovered treasure, it is exceptional for the number of important Old Masters on its walls — most famously, Velázquez's portrait of Pope Innocent X, who founded the collection. It is exceptional also for looking much as it did in the 18th century: tapestries on the walls, chairs covered in Genoese velvet, chandeliers, and mirrors to bring daylight into the four long galleries around the inner courtyard.

When the announcement of the loan of 12 masterpieces to the National Gallery was made last November, a ripple of excitement went through the art world, as well as a great deal of speculation.

Because almost no major works had ever left the gallery before, it is only because the rooms are currently closed for restoration that the paintings were available, and it was thanks to the family's ties with Britain (the present prince's father is English, his mother half-Scottish) that London was offered the exhibition.

The National Gallery leapt at the chance, with the caveat that it chose the works, which explains a selection ranging in date from the Raphael *Portrait of Two Men* of about 1510 to the two Claude Lorrains of 1650.

The ten paintings and two busts of Pope Innocent X (by Bernini and Algardi) nearly did not make it. It took months of negotiations with the Italian government, and a signed document from the National Gallery undertaking to return the works to Italy, before the authorities were satisfied.

Prince Jonathan Doria Pamphilj, 32, who now has responsibility for his family's collection, half seriously wonders if the special Comitato di Settore, which advises the Minister of Culture, suspected a clandestine sale was going to take place.

If it had, it would have been the sale of the century. The marriage of Pope Innocent's nephew, Camillo Pamphilj, to the redoubtable Donna Olimpia added paintings by Raphael and Titian from the great papal Aldobrandini family to the collection. Further dynastic marriages brought further masterpieces — a Sebastiano del Piombo and a Bronzino came from the Genoese Doria family. The collection was added to up until the last century.

Prince Jonathan explains that it is partly due to the papal bull passed by Pope

Innocent in 1651, entailing the collection to the family, that it is still in one piece. On the Unification of Italy in 1870 the government confirmed its descent by primogeniture and its "inalienability", which ties it to its historical site. Being classified as part of the National Patrimony does not, however, mean that the gallery gets any state funding as such. "The family is exonerated from paying tax on the value of the works of art, but while six years ago 100 per cent of the cost of restoration works could be set against gross income for tax purposes, this is now reduced to 20 per cent. The Government is really damaging families like ours by taking away tax incentives."

Despite an annual deficit of £60,000 on keeping the gallery open to the public, Arie Doria Pamphilj SRL, a limited company of which the family are the shareholders, has taken the bold decision to make the gallery a going commercial concern. The prince says the signs are optimistic: "Visitor" numbers have risen from 17,000 a year three years ago to 30,000 now, and are on their way to the 50,000 needed for the collection to break even.

In addition, the Ministry of Culture has agreed to pay for essential upgrading of the gallery spaces to bring them into line with EU regulations. Meanwhile, the prince, his sister and her husband plan to bring the gallery even further into the 20th century with a video about the collection, to be shown at the beginning of the gallery tour, and the release of a CD-ROM on the history of the family and its art treasures. Before the gallery re-opens in June they will rehang all the pictures according to a detailed document of 1760 which was found in the archives. "The walls will look quite dense, with paintings hung one above the other and, instead of being grouped into 'schools' of painting, as in a museum, the works will be paired, moving successively outwards from the centre of the wall to create a feeling of balance and harmony," he says.

With an acknowledged debt to the National Trust, the emphasis will be on displaying a private house and showing how princely families lived in the 18th century. If that means no central heating or air conditioning, lighting a little dimmer than we are used to, and paintings a little darker, that is how it should be. Prince Jonathan is adamant: "The paintings have been like this for 200 years and they are fine as they are — it is part of the whole experience of going to an old palace."

ISABEL CARLISLE

AROUND THE GALLERIES

Matt's Gallery has been transformed and now has the cold emptiness of a disused garage or workshop packed with scraps and abandoned items. The material placed so carefully, so sculpturally, in the maze of walk-through shelving that stretches from floor to ceiling, retains a sense of utility. Hoses, pipes, tubes of cardboard, carpet strips, lit fluorescent tubes, even paperbacks: these are not quite "junk" as such, and have been cleverly chosen and placed to draw the visitor in. At some point it becomes clear that this mass and maze of material is directing our attention towards something else. By standing deep inside the space on a milk crate it is possible to look up into something like a treehouse or human nest. Inside this sinister den is a big bone, a television with hissing interference, and a ticking clock. This installation by Mike Nelson evokes not only the idea of the child "playing house", but also the sad social outsider, and the cinematic monster.

Matt's Gallery 42-44 Copperfield Road London E3 (0181-983 1771) until March 17

□ A joint exhibition of work by two established artists, who

also happen to be friends, brings some particularly rigorous work to the Annely Juda Gallery. Subtly graded white reliefs and intensely pleasing pencil drawings by Alan Reynolds match the modernist design of the space. Two sets of work by Malcolm Hughes — one with diffuse colour suspended over planes in relief, the other with small intense rectangles of dense colour on only one section of otherwise white constructed surfaces — are both based on numerical systems. The work of these two artists has evolved in a concentrated and considered fashion over decades. Although its origin lies, roughly speaking, in the rigour of early constructivist theory, the actual experience of the work has a consoling delicacy and sensuality that counters any theoretical coldness.

Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street London W1 (0171-629 7578) to March 23

□ Damien Duffy and Padraig Timoney make very different work from each other, and yet the absence of identifying labels in their joint exhibition implies that they share a singular project. The underground gallery space is closely hung with paintings; one group uses layers of white



Mike Nelson's intriguing installation at Matt's Gallery

paint, swept or squeezed across the surface and then sanded down. The remaining pictures display a large range of approaches: from a blank primed canvas surrounded by plastic set squares, through a painting of an illusionistic hand that holds a crown of electronic thorns, to an LED information panel that spells out an ambiguous message.

30 Underwood Street Gallery, 30 Underwood Street, London N1 (0171-336 0884) until March 24

□ Dominic Lejman, from Poland, makes diffuse and vague paintings that suggest a range of possible interpretations. The small gallery is possibly

overhung with the strange, thinly veiled images. At the back, a couple of studies of heads emerge like faint remnants of Renaissance painting, while the image of a surgery with doctors in long white coats struggles to the surface in a painting by the entrance. Large torsos are stuck at slight angles like details from faceless monuments. The references stray too often into familiar "classical" territory to achieve the awkwardness that the artist probably desires.

Harriet Green Gallery, 5 Silver Place, London W1 (0171-287 8328) until March 2

SACHA CRADDOCK

Echoes in an old workplace

Georg Herold has turned wire and planks into an elegiac memento of Halifax's industrial heritage

electrical wire wrapped around each pillar. The room is otherwise bare, and about a third of the size of a football pitch, so that the visitor's footsteps echo round the cavernous space, heightening the sense of an abandoned workplace and vanished workforce.

Down one side, a line of clear glass windows runs the length of the room, deeply recessed into the wall. Here Herold has subtly altered the nature of the space, redesigning the window frames and partially barring the windows: the concepts of protection and

restriction — and the ways in which one can turn into the other — are a recurrent theme in his work.

In the front gallery, a conical structure has been built almost up to the rafters, a stone spiral around wooden supports, reminiscent of nearby industrial kilns. The structure appears solid, but is non-functional, with no openings save the small circular air-hole at the top. This work evokes old methods of production, while emphasising how redundant they are in today's world.

These oppositions run through Herold's work. Vernacular elements of Halifax's past are preserved in the buildings of Dean Clough; yet with them, with the buildings' change of use, comes a sense of local loss.

Although abstract in its approach, Herold's latest installation can be seen as his personal view of Halifax, his response to its craggy location at the foot of the Farnes, its industries, and its people.

CHARLOTTE MULLINS

Georg Herold is at the Henry Moore Studio, Dean Clough, Halifax (0113 2343158) until March 31



Georg Herold outside Dean Clough: evoking the past while showing how redundant the old methods now are



FILMS

Berlin winds up its festival with the latest movies from Terry Gilliam and Stephen Frears



OPERA

In ENO's revived *Tosca* David Rendall proves to be the very model of a modern Cavaradossi

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

György Kurtág's work is explored by the London Sinfonietta in a fascinating weekend festival



MUSIC 2

... while Sir Charles Mackerras weighs into masses of Mozart and Bruckner at the Barbican

The good win over the ugly

Sometimes it was hard to enjoy the 46th Berlin International Film Festival. Freezing temperatures. Snow underfoot. Shoes that let in water. And then to top it all, *Mary Reilly*, a film offering all the joy of a two-hour incarceration in a channel house. There were so many misconceptions lurking inside Stephen Frears and Christopher Hampton's gloomy variation on the Jekyll and Hyde theme, based on Valerie Martin's novel. How could Julia Roberts's Irish maid never spot that an unshaven John Malkovich with long hair was the same chap as John Malkovich with short greying locks and a beard? And how could the collaborators of *Dangerous Liaisons* devise a film so boring and self-important?

Last year's festival unleashed such a barrage of criticism that Moritz de Madeln, major-domo of the official selection, felt obliged to point out that the festival does not produce the films it presents; it simply chooses from what is on offer. This year the selection was far more even in quality, and *Sense and Sensibility* was an obvious contender for the top prize from the very first day. The jury played a bizarre trick, however, in appointing Anouk Grinberg best actress for her role in *Mon Homme*, for her monotonous display of gamin charm did little to help audiences through Bertrand Blier's latest assault on sexual habits and bourgeois conventions.

The best French film in Berlin, in fact, was not in competition at all. *La Fille seule* is a film by Benoît Jacquot, his eighth (British cinema-magars have seen only his second, *Les Enfants du placard*). The situation is beautifully simple. On the day she starts work as a hotel char-

Geoff Brown
uncovers some surprises as the Berlin Film Festival comes to a quirky end

bermaid, Valérie tells her boyfriend she is pregnant. They agree to meet in an hour to talk further: an hour spent with the camera following Valérie around the corridors as she confronts the sexual oddities of staff and guests, phones her mother and steels herself for the future. Apart from explaining why room service breakfasts take an age being delivered, the film glories in the rhythms and resonances of daily life, and reveals a haunting new French actress, Virginie Ledoyen, whose face holds you captive.

At other times in Berlin, delights creep up to make the days pass pleasantly. Another French film, Chris Marker's *La Jélie*, appeared as a ghostly presence in two competition entries. Marker's science-fiction short of 1962 describes through black-and-white still images one man's journey back in time to save civilisation from disaster. Black-and-white stills also appear in *What I Have Written*, a striking first feature from John Hughes, an Australian director. The written material is a novella, which explores an extra-marital affair begun by the author in Paris. This is news to his wife, and it hits her especially hard because her husband is now in a coma after a stroke. Hughes, previously a documentary maker, shifts visual styles; the result is a powerful portrait of be-

trayal, sexual power and the lure of fiction.

Then Terry Gilliam arrived with *Twelve Monkeys*, which uses Marker's short as a springboard for a two-hour-plus fantasia laden with special effects and Bruce Willis. Gilliam's vision of a grungey future lived underground and the caperings of the "Army of the Twelve Monkeys", a terrorist group led by a warped Brad Pitt, initially grab the attention. But the curse of overkill reduces the film to the cinema equivalent of black-triangle pudding.

Not for the first time, the best delights in the competition section came from left of field. Andrzej Wajda's *Holy Week*, like most of his films since the early 1980s, showed a great director running out of steam: his drama about the Warsaw ghetto had the muted impact of a good TV movie.

For signs of new life, you turned to Yoichi Higashi, a Japanese director unknown in the West, whose *Village of Dreams*, unspooled on Sunday, left everyone wretched in smiles. The film explores the rural childhood of real-life identical twins, Seizo and Yukihiko Tashima (now successful picture-book artists in their thirties). This could have been a footling exercise in nostalgia, but Higashi stops the rot by playing up the magical connections between the twins and the natural world (fish especially), and drawing a sly portrait of post-war Japanese society in embryo. No film in Berlin beguiled so easily, or showed such fresh imagination; the jury awarded it a Silver Bear for "an outstanding single achievement".

Established directors tackling worthy topics were continually upstaged by relative newcomers. Aside from Wajda's Warsaw ghetto tale,



Twelve Monkeys. Terry Gilliam's vision of a grungey future lived underground, is a fantasia laden with special effects... and Bruce Willis

The Nasty Girl, the director Michael Verhoeven weighed in with *Mother's Courage*. The plot was touching enough: the mother (Pauline Collins) is the mother of the Hungarian writer George Tabori, and her courage saves her from the Nazi death camps. But you never inhabited the story and its times.

Yet in *A Single Spark*, Korea's competition entry, Park Kwang-su effortlessly escorted us to 1970 to watch the travails of Jeon Tae-il, a garment worker who led a protest about factory conditions and died in flames as a martyr. If Jeon were portrayed as a strapping people's hero, the film would probably have been doomed; but Hong Kyung-in's portrayal is so

THIS YEAR'S BERLIN PRIZEWINNERS	
Best Film (Golden Bear)	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
Special Jury Prize (Silver Bear)	<i>All Things Fair</i>
Best Director (Silver Bear)	Yim Ho (<i>The Sun Has Ears</i>) and Richard Loncraine (<i>Richard III</i>)
Best Actor (Silver Bear)	Sean Penn (<i>Dead Man Walking</i>)
Best Actress (Silver Bear)	Anouk Grinberg (<i>Mon Homme</i>)

lithic and unassuming that you cannot help rooting for his cause. An eloquent film, of great beauty and dignity, it deserves to travel widely.

We may also expect the winner of the festival's special jury prize, *All Things Fair*, Sweden's contender for the Best Foreign Film Oscar, and the first movie venture by Bo

Widerberg for ten years. The director of that pinnacle of prettiness, *Elvira Madigan*, can still shape an attractive scene, although he pushes his luck by stretching a thin story to breaking point. The time is 1943, although the war takes a back seat to the love between a teenager (Uohan Widerberg, the director's son) and his

school teacher (Marika Lagercrantz). The film is at its best outside the sheets, when the boy and the teacher's sad, drunken husband build a cockeyed friendship.

Berlin takes its cinema seriously, so you could not escape film history. The most enticing of some fascinating documentaries was *The Celluloid Clos-*

et, a lavish, funny and carefully researched investigation into Hollywood's treatment of gays down the decades.

There was also *Bye, Bye America!*, the last, uncompleted film of Alexander Dovzhenko, the great Russian master, which received its world premiere 46 years after Stalin stopped the production in its tracks. This was the festival's oddest exhibit. You looked in vain for the lyrical poet of the silent classic *Earth* in these starchy scenes of nefarious doings in America's Moscow embassy. But there was pleasure in the Cold War caricatures, the garish colour, and the meticulous way the film was reconstructed from the unfinished footage and Dovzhenko's script.

Opera

One man show

Tosca
Coliseum

DAVID RENDALL's Cavaradossi has been the most constant element in Keith Warner's staging of *Tosca*, first seen two years ago. And he is the main reason to catch this revival. Rendall rides above a production quirky to the point of irritation, providing a credible hero who, like Tosca, opts for art and love.

Cavaradossi the revolutionary is played down. His tenor is in excellent trim, the voice glowing with health. The cries of victory of Act II ring out with brilliance, and the volume is trimmed down to a soft, lyrical line as Cavaradossi marvels that Tosca's soft hands are capable of manslaughter.

Would that he had worthy support. Janice Cairns as Tosca is new to the production, but not to the part. She has no fear of pulling out the emotional stops, with even some roly-poly in front of the Madonna. Odd from a lady of piety. But the voice was poorly focused, especially during rare attempts at soft singing.

Nor is it possible to be enthusiastic about the new Scarpia, Phillip Joll. The performance is all bluster and no menace. That is not how Scarpia became top dog in the Rome police force. Joll, a sturdy portly in German opera, was often unhappy with Puccini's vocal line. Tito Gobbi claimed that *Tosca* was really about Scarpia and it mattered not that he was dead by the end of Act II. Once this Scarpia dies he fades completely.

Keith Warner has a mania for illustrating everything: Angelotti's escape from prison, Cavaradossi's torture, the shepherd boy's song, Tosca's death on what looked more like an airport runway than the battlements of the Castel Sant'Angelo is ludicrous, compounded by a figure dangling from a proscenium arch. Alex Ingram conducted a noisy performance.

JOHN HIGGINS

Hungarian rhapsody

György Kurtág is without doubt one of the most distinguished composers alive today, but performances of his music here remain infrequent enough for each to be an occasion. The London Sinfonietta's "Kurtág at 70" celebration at the South Bank last weekend was thus a very big occasion. Noted Kurtág interpreters from far afield joined the Sinfonietta for a programme centred on four concerts. Alas, due to illness neither the composer nor his wife were able to participate.

Kurtág's widespread fame is a phenomenon only of the last two decades, but then he was already in his forties when he discovered himself as a composer, during a year of studies in Paris. He traces his style back to his Hungarian

Kurtág Festival
South Bank

roots and wider musical traditions — "My mother tongue is Bartók, and Bartók's mother tongue was Beethoven". But Kurtág's music is utterly individual — and the intensely personal nature of his works must make the attention he now receives at once gratifying and hard to bear.

Kurtág's masterpiece, indeed one of the masterpieces of modern music, is his song cycle for soprano and chamber orchestra, *Messiaes of the Late Miss R.V. Trusova*, and it made a strong opening to the first of Saturday's concerts.

The soprano Rosemary Hardy was vivid, proclaiming the poems of lost love with grim intensity. Each poetic idea has a striking musical counterpart, and the accomplished Sinfonietta players under Markus Stenz caught them all.

No less gripping was *The Sayings of Péter Bornemisza*, an early work which demands utmost virtuosity and received it on Friday from the soprano Valérie Anderson and Thomas Adès at the piano. The music grows out of the text here, and Anderson coloured her voice expressively.

A highlight of the weekend was the first British performance of *Grubstein für Stephan*, a work for large, percussion-heavy ensemble which in just nine minutes leaves the listener emotionally exhausted. A sense of deep sorrow is evoked in the innocently strummed guitar chords, in the distant, muted wind solos and in violent, shattering interruptions. As in many Kurtág scores, the sound of the cimbalom casts its dusky shadow here.

Another piece new to this country in which Kurtág again explores his technique of spacing instruments throughout the hall is the impressive *Double Concerto* for piano and cello. The first of its two movements is a constantly shifting mosaic in which the cello (Christopher van Kampen) takes the lead, often lyrically but sometimes lurching darkly below the instrument's normal range. The tender second movement is underpinned by chorale-like piano passages (Csaba Kúraly).

The intimate nature of Kurtág's music was not neglected. We heard a selection of his piano *Games* (Valeria Szervánsky and Ronald Cavae), and chamber music including the Second and Third Quartets (Keller Quartet). Many of his smaller pieces make mesmerizing play with sounds, but taken together they suggest a slightly limited range of expression. That is certainly the flaw of *Rückblick*, a "guided tour" of the composer's oeuvre dedicated to Stockhausen. The small-scale effectiveness of each part was lost in this hour-long work which made a dull end to these exciting events.

TESS KNIGHTON

JOHN ALLISON

Bridging the gap

SUNDAY's concert in the Barbican juxtaposed late Mozart and early Bruckner in a way that successfully highlighted the Viennese connection despite the generation gap between the two composers.

Mozart would have had to have lived to his nineties to have heard Bruckner's Requiem in D minor, but it is not so surprising, given the essentially conservative nature of the Viennese church music tradition, that the later composer should clearly have had Mozart's own Masses in mind as he wrote his.

Bruckner's Mass barely hints at the great and original symphonist he was to become; altogether moderate in its dimensions and orchestration (strings, horns and three trombones), it is a restrained and even stark work, though not without emotional depth. Verdi's setting of some 25 years later seems over-blown by comparison to Bruckner's simple but affecting sincerity.

These qualities were enhanced by a refreshingly non-nonsense account from Charles Mackerras and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Mackerras can always whip up excitement, and there was plenty of it in the *Dies Irae* and elsewhere. The London Symphony Chorus quickly re-

SCO/Mackerras
Barbican

sponded to full throttle, but proved not to be the most subtle of choirs, perhaps, because their numbers had been reduced for this occasion.

A strong team of soloists had relatively little to contribute: tenor Barry Banks took his soaring phrase in the *Agnus Dei* quite superbly, and soprano Rebecca Evans made her mark. Patricia Bardon and Peter Rose, though fine singers, were too weighty for the piece and the slimline orchestral forces. The SCO, in fine form on a rare London visit, had its opportunity to shine in the Mozart first-half: the overture to *The Magic Flute* and the *Jupiter Symphony*.

Mackerras, having worked often with period-instrument orchestras, drew some excitingly stylish playing from the orchestra. The use of natural trumpets and horns (apparently donated to the SCO by Mackerras himself) and wooden timpani sticks had an immediate impact on the outer movements of the symphony, which Mackerras could take at a good lick without compromising any clarity of texture.

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To take advantage of our exclusive offer, all you have to do is collect four of the six concert tokens appearing in *The Times* and attach them to an application form to be published later this week. For readers who missed it, here is the final part of our listing of participating concerts halls. The first two sections, detailing concerts in London and a regional listing in

alphabetical order from Birmingham to Southampton, appeared on Saturday and yesterday.

HOW TO BOOK

Choose a concert from the listing and telephone the venue to reserve your tickets quoting *The Times* offer. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 30p. Your tickets cannot be issued without tokens. Please do not call the concert halls before Thursday, February 29. The offer is limited to one 30p performance per household, though you may get a 30p ticket for more concerts at venues marked * if you book them at the same time. The tokens are valid only for the performances stated in the offer and cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer. All tickets are subject to availability. Check with the booking office for the time your chosen concert starts.

YOUR CHOICE OF VENUE

<p>WYOMOUTH Preston Hall 01925 783225* Bourneville Sinfonietta Mar 13 Conductor George Hurst, soloist Anya Alexeev: Schumann Piano Concerto in A minor, Beethoven Symphony No 5, Apr 11 Conductor Tamas Vassay, soloist Nicola Madyarov: Mozart Piano Concerto No 20 and Violin Concerto No 5, Schubert Symphony No 8, Liszt Piano, £11.95</p> <p>WINCHESTER New Hall 01952 877877* Bournemouth Sinfonietta Mar 15 Conductor George Hurst, soloist Anya Alexeev: Schumann Piano Concerto in A minor, Beethoven Symphony No 5, Apr 13 Conductor Tamas Vassay, soloist Nicola Madyarov: Mozart Piano Concerto No 20 and Violin Concerto No 5, Schubert Symphony No 8, Liszt Piano, £14.95</p> <p>WORKING New Victoria Theatre 01453 761144 English Sinfonia Apr 14 Conductor Jacek Kasprzyk, soloist Julian Lloyd Webber: Beethoven Symphony No 8, Britten Cello Symphony, Schubert Symphony No 6, £18, £20.</p> <p>WALES CARDIFF St David's Hall 01222 878444* City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Mar 15 Conductor Sir Simon Rattle, soloist Jonathan Kelly: Stravinsky Agon, Shostakovich Symphony No 10, BBC National Orchestra of Wales Mar 22 Conductor David Atherton, soloist Della Jones: Rimsky-Korsakov Capriccio espagnol, de Falla El Amor Brujo, Xavier Montsalvate Canciones negras, Missogorsky/Ravel Pictures from an Exhibition, Mar 29 Conductor Mark Wigglesworth, soloist Steven Isserlis: Shostakovich Cello Concerto No 1, Rachmaninov Symphony No 2, Apr 14 Conductor Nicholas McGegan, Chie, soloist Susannah Waters,</p>	<p>Catherine Robbin, Mark Tucker, David Thomas: Bach Mass in B minor, Apr 27 Conductor Tadaaki Otaka, soloists Christian Lindberg, Dong-Suk Kang: Mendelssohn Overture Fingals Cave, Tchaikovsky Panis et Carnice II, Bruch Violin Concerto No 1, Dvorak Symphony No 8, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Mar 3 Conductor Libor Pešek, soloist Howard Shelley: Haydn Symphony No 49, Mozart Piano Concerto No 17, Dvorak Symphony No 9, Russian State Philharmonic Orchestra Mar 17 Conductor Valery Polinsky, soloist Adia Kravitz: Tchaikovsky Symphony No 4, Prokofiev Violin Concerto No 2, Tickets £8-£19.</p> <p>WOLFF Theatre Chryd 01352 755114* Coall String Quartet Mar 10 Alexander Balit (cello): Haydn Quartet No 3, Beethoven Quartet in F, Schubert Quintet in C, 53, European Community Chamber Orchestra Mar 12 Director Linn Stou Larsen, soloist Michèle Deslet: Mozart Divertimento, Tchaikovsky Elegy for Sings, Haydn Symphony No 59 Fing, £10.</p> <p>SWANSEA Brangwyn Hall 01792 475715 Orchestra of Welsh National Opera with young singers from the National Opera Studio Mar 11 Conductor Julian Smith, Operatic highlights: Mozart, Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet and Johann Strauss, £3-£7.</p> <p>SCOTLAND ABERDEEN The Music Hall 01224 641122 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra Apr 23 Conductor Gidon Slevak, soloist Anthony Marwood: Schubert Symphony No 8, Elgar Violin Concerto, £12.50-£15.</p>	<p>EDINBURGH Usher Hall 0131-228 1155* Royal Scottish National Orchestra Mar 1 Conductor En Shao, Chorus, soloist Janis Vokaraks: Mozart Symphony No 17, Piano Concerto No 20, Yanquan Hua The Shadow of Moonlight, Barokk The Miraculous Mandarin, Mar 15 Conductor Philippe Auguin, soloist Felicity Lott: Mozart Overture The Marriage of Figaro, Symphony No 39, Poulenc La Voix Humaine, Tickets £5-£19.50 Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus Apr 11 Conductor Nicholas Krause, soloist Gillian Webster: Alceste I runner, Jan Söderberg, Christo her Purves, Handel Messiah, £4.50-16.50 (bookings through Ousey's Hall).</p> <p>GLASGOW City Hall 0141-227 5514 Scottish Chamber Orchestra Mar 29 Conductor and viola Yuri Bashmet, Catherine Marwood (viola): Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 6, Schubert Symphony No 4, Tchaikovsky, £4.50-£14.50.</p> <p>GLASGOW Royal Concert Hall 0141-227 5511* Royal Scottish National Orchestra Mar 2 Conductor En Shao, Chorus, soloist Janis Vokaraks: Mozart Piano Concerto No 20, Yanquan Hua The Shadow of Moonlight, Barokk The Miraculous Mandarin, Mar 3 Conductor Joel McNeely: Symphonic Hollywood — Braveheart, Jurassic Park, Schindler's List, Mar 16 Conductor Philippe Auguin, soloist Felicity Lott: Mozart Overture The Marriage of Figaro, Symphony No 39, Poulenc La Voix Humaine, Tickets £5.50-£19.50.</p>
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THE TIMES
30p CONCERT
TOKEN 3

IN BRIEF

O'Sullivan continues to find form elusive

<p>46/1st Town Green Waterford Lends. Applicant for the Applicant.</p>	<p>Edles. 1st February 1996. WJZL Niles. joint administrators of the holder name 1953/01.</p>	<p>Applicant: Cassam Mounif Limited care of 27 Wandford Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.</p>
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European Super League counts cost of ruling

Schofield is the fourth senior Leeds player to depart in two months, after

SEMI-FINAL DRAW: Bradford v Leeds (March 23); St Helens v Widnes (March 29). Venues to be announced.

Timinans Awareness Week: In Tune. Radio 3, 5.15pm.
Because I have suffered from tinnitus for four years, I welcome Radio 3's Initiative 1, it began last Saturday with *Musik Matters*, continues today with *In Tune*, and on Friday, one in ten people have tinnitus, and I am the only one to take advantage of Radio 3's free, 24-hour, "don't despair" helpline. The number to ring is 0800 033 033. There is a special reason why Radio 3 should have launched this social action campaign. It is predominantly a music channel, and any tinnitus victim will tell you that trying to concentrate on music is the worst of all, the worst of non-stop ringing or hissing (and, in my case, both) is sheer agony.

Peter Daville

WINNING CHESS MOVE

FM 97.8-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 88.0-
DIO 4: FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW
D. WORLD SERVICE, MW 848; LW
FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM
NO UK, MW 1053, 1089, Television
by Peter Dear, Gillian Mawby.

Y. CORR
TABLISH

UPT.
MENT ELITE.
...to be continued

Bad news for men, good news for scientists

Scientific research used to be a dull old game. You spent years in a laboratory before you could even dream of submitting a paper to a journal. Even then your troubles were not over—there were the referees to get through, people who took a sadistic delight in dismissing your discoveries as "offside" or, worse still, an "own goal".

If and when they gave a grudging nod of approval, only then could the holy grail—publication—be delivered. Which is how "saw your paper in the old whist last month—very, um, interesting" became the equivalent of a standing ovation. But all that has changed. Nowadays you have to have a film deal.

Dr Richard Sharpe had a film deal. He had *Horizon* (BBC2) which last night continued *The Trouble With Men* season with *Assault on the Male*. A couple of weeks back a Bristol scientist came

to a similar arrangement with *Dispatches* for research into a possible link between cancer and power lines. In your papers in the morning, on your television the same evening—it's a multimedia double whammy that does great things for your public profile.

Sharpe, however, employed a subtle and somewhat cruel variation. His findings of a 25 per cent fall in male sperm counts hit newspapers at the back end of last week. This left the entire weekend free for what we chaps do best—worrying about our health. So, dear female reader, if someone close to you spent Saturday and Sunday staring balefully down at his testicles, you know the reason why.

An excellent first half to Deborah Cadbury's film advanced convincing research that suggested men were in even more trouble than the newspaper headlines had

indicated. Not only are sperm counts falling at a rate that could lead to widespread male infertility in about 20 years' time, but the incidence of testicular cancer and two other conditions that affect things "down there" (believe me, there is a time for euphemism and this is it) has risen sharply. Boy, do our Sertoli cells have problems.

Exactly what these problems might be was the subject of a second half that was slightly less interesting by virtue of being largely a reworking of an earlier programme. Cadbury had no time for the tight underpants theory or the idea that it is all to do with spending too much time driving. The film went all out to pin the blame on synthetic oestrogens, everyday chemicals—particularly those used in plastics—that have hidden talent for mimicking female sex hormones.

For a fleeting moment, I thought

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

the news that we all are awash in a "sea of oestrogen" might have an upside. If we chaps are generally getting a bit less male as a result, then surely women should be getting... well, you know, even more womanly. At least then the male sex could die out with a smile on its face.

But it seems not. These artificial oestrogens are just as bad news for women as they are for men and

could be responsible for the huge increases in breast cancer over the last 50 years. As the final credits rolled, it was back to worrying.

James Kavanagh is of the pre-plastic generation that does not have to worry about sperm counts. He has two children, an attractive wife who works in Strasbourg and a career as a barrister. Add it all together and you have *Kavanagh* (ITV), which returned for a new series in top form.

I can't remember who takes the credit for inventing the three-stranded dramatic form (Shakespeare? Sieve Bochco?) but whoever it was would have relished last night's opener. Story one was professional—Kavanagh John Thaw in long hair mode was defending a left-wing activist accused of murdering a Union Jack-wearing skinhead. Mar (well played by Stuart Laing) said he didn't do it—it was his upper-middle-class girlfriend, Miriam. It

ended with a well executed twist—Kavanagh didn't win the case but nor did he entirely lose it.

Story two was personal. Kavanagh's daughter Kate (Daisy Bates) has made it to Cambridge where she has been having an ill-advised affair with a man who is not only her tutor but also an old friend of the family. Understandably, the news had a terrible effect on her father's northern vowel sounds.

As for story three... it was a hoot. Jeremy Alderman, Kavanagh's normally starchy colleague, embarked on a passionate affair with a glamorous former client who turned out to be mad, bad and very expensive to know. As diversions go it was top class and wonderfully played by Nicholas Jones as Alderman and Lesley Manville as Lucy Cartwright, his multitalented undoing.

The three stories were woven together well and the combined whole bounced along with a little more pace than I recall from a first series. Even with John Wells cast for the umpteenth time as a barrister, it was a promising return.

On Channel 4, *Island of Dreams* ended on an unexpected note of optimism. *Dia*, the one married to Nico—waiter, botanist and Robin Williams lookalike—returned to Zakynthos with their second child and was even getting along with his mother. "This is home," she announced to everyone's surprise. Quite where the Damascus conversion had taken place was just one of the many important things the cameras missed in a series that had neither the stories nor the characters to live up to its predecessors looking at expat life in Spain and the Dordogne. *Toujours Zakynthos?* I think not.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (55176)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (56447)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (56447)
9.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (5) (3635114) 9.45am Killy (5) (3635114) 10.30am Good Morning (5) (3635114) 12.05pm News (5) (3635114) 12.30pm News (5) (3635114) 1.30pm News (5) (3635114) 2.30pm News (5) (3635114) 3.30pm News (5) (3635114) 4.30pm News (5) (3635114) 5.30pm News (5) (3635114) 6.30pm News (5) (3635114) 7.30pm News (5) (3635114) 8.30pm News (5) (3635114) 9.30pm News (5) (3635114) 10.30pm News (5) (3635114) 11.30pm News (5) (3635114) 12.30pm News (5) (3635114) 1.30pm News (5) (3635114) 2.30pm News (5) (3635114) 3.30pm News (5) (3635114) 4.30pm News (5) (3635114) 5.30pm News (5) (3635114) 6.30pm News (5) (3635114) 7.30pm News (5) (3635114) 8.30pm News (5) (3635114) 9.30pm News (5) (3635114) 10.30pm News (5) (3635114) 11.30pm News (5) (3635114) 12.30pm News (5) (3635114) 1.30pm News (5) (3635114) 2.30pm News (5) (3635114) 3.30pm News (5) (3635114) 4.30pm News (5) (3635114) 5.30pm News (5) (3635114) 6.30pm News (5) (3635114) 7.30pm News (5) (3635114) 8.30pm News (5) (3635114) 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SPORT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27 1996

'Once the bandwagon starts and people call for the captain's head, it is hard to stop it'

Atherton faces
prospect of
losing his job

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN RAWALPINDI

THE gathering momentum of defeat and indignities is threatening to unseat Michael Atherton as England cricket captain, less than three months after his greatest triumph. Last night, defiant but realistic, he said that he would be "disappointed but not surprised" if failure in the World Cup cost him his job.

It was a day under siege for Atherton as the Pakistani media belaboured his team's ineptitude and his manners. While one half of the England management issued apologies for his behaviour towards a local journalist and the other half criticised his form and tactics, Atherton kept largely out of sight, playing cards and reading in his hotel room. His place in the team, and his status as captain, had, overnight, become valid subjects of debate and he shirked neither issue.

"I am fatalistic about the captaincy," he said. "I think you have to be. I hold it dear and I don't want to be stood down at the end of the World Cup, but I know it's quite likely to happen if we continue to play as we are. Once the bandwagon starts to roll, and people start calling for the captain's head, it is very hard to stop it."

"I am not going to drop myself — in fact, I haven't even thought about it. I am fed up with not getting any runs, but I'm certainly not giving up on it. I shall be practising all this week and I will be opening the batting against Pakistan on Sunday."

Early in December, any such discussion would have been sacrilegious. Atherton saved a Test match against South Africa with a monumental, 11-hour innings. His leadership qualities were widely lauded and one newspaper called for him to be

knighted. The same paper has now turned against him. It does not surprise Atherton one bit, which is one reason why his sanity is intact and his spirits are not yet flagging.

"I have always felt there is a fickleness attached to this job," he said. "That is why I don't get carried away when things go well. I remember thinking in Johannesburg, after that century, that the nature of the captaincy is cyclical and I had to prepare for it to turn sour on me at any time. So, while I would be disappointed if I lost it, and while it means a lot to



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me, I can't let it mean everything."

The criticisms piling at Atherton's door are various. It is said that he is too rigid a bandwagon starts to roll, and people start calling for the captain's head, it is very hard to stop it.

He answers quite frankly. "I am not inflexible," he said. "I just don't believe that theory; and I don't think my captaincy here has been poor. There will always be differences of opinion over bowling changes, field settings, whatever, but we don't have explosive match-winners in our attack and I have to work within our limitations. I have used spin in the first 15 overs and at the death. That isn't being inflexible."

"I am not a great self-

publicist, never have been. Certain other players have reputations that may be unfounded — their ability to lead may not quite match their image — but the problem with our team now is simply an underlying lack of confidence and there is only a certain amount a captain can do to cure that."

Atherton became unpopular in South Africa, where his image was one of surliness, and he is certainly no favourite in Pakistan, but he denies that this stems from an intolerant nature. "I am certainly not intolerant of local customs or local people," he said. "We have stressed on this tour that we must go out of our way to enjoy it and I think we are doing that. I have found the public very friendly, but the Pakistan press is hostile to us and I can only think that dates back to previous England teams."

"I don't court popularity, and if crowds take against me, then it is part of my nature to be spurred to extra effort. I am not image-conscious so I enjoy it. Having said that, I don't go out of my way to be unpopular either. After what has happened this weekend, I shall have to be more careful."

Atherton never disguises his preference for Test cricket, but the World Cup is an exception. "Rightly or wrongly, the strength of countries is sometimes judged by how they fare in the World Cup, so it is important for the team that we do well and it is important to me because I may not be around long enough to play in another one," he said. "I have my views about things that are wrong at the core of our game, things that haven't changed in our structure while other countries have moved on, but this is not the time to harp on about that because I do believe we have some good players and I have faith in my team."

"We have not come into the event casually and we don't take any decisions without thought — every night, four of us sit down and talk about it. We have not played anywhere near our potential and we have got to improve a lot even to compete. If we don't, I will know what to expect."



Displeasure with his captain was only one of the issues raised by Illingworth, the England team manager, on a difficult day for the touring team

Illingworth leads chorus of criticism

FROM ALAN LEE

DERISION and confusion have pursued England's cricketers in the aftermath of their latest World Cup debacle, and Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, fanned the flames of debate yesterday by directly criticising Michael Atherton, his captain.

Illingworth responded to the 78-run defeat by South Africa on Sunday with a candid assessment of England's shortcomings, and Atherton was not spared. His batting form, tactics and judgment were disparaged, although Illingworth balked at the suggestion that Atherton should be replaced. "He has been picked to captain in the World Cup and that is his job," he said.

This was an embarrassing day to be English in Pakistan. The morning newspapers chortled over England's predicament, and censured Ath-

erton for the public relations blunder of addressing a local journalist as "a buffoon". The England management team busied itself issuing apologies and denials, while the players, who would soon be heading home but for the forgiving structure of this competition, confronted the boredom resulting from only one day's cricket in the next 13.

"England go back to kindergarten" and "England turned weaklings" were two of the unflattering headlines over stories suggesting that Illingworth's team had joined the minnows of world cricket. The News crowned on its front page: "England, the mother country of the game, came up with a kind of display yesterday that could lead to calls for them to go through the ICC qualification competition in future."

This, however, did not incense the manager so much as the impression that he had

been "unavailable" for the post-match press conference. "I didn't even know it was taking place," he said, before seeking out John Barclay, his assistant, to confront him over the misunderstanding.

Later, holding court in his hotel room, Illingworth identified the inadequacies in England's latest performance, and most of them involved Atherton. He referred obliquely to disagreements with him over selection and batting orders, and nominated the first 12 overs of the South Africa innings, in which they scored 56 runs, as vital.

"Our fields were not right in those overs," he said. "I always felt we needed to keep them to 200 on that wicket." Turning to the batting, he said: "I am very disappointed with our openers. We have got to get it sorted out."

Michael says he feels all right, but it's not a matter of

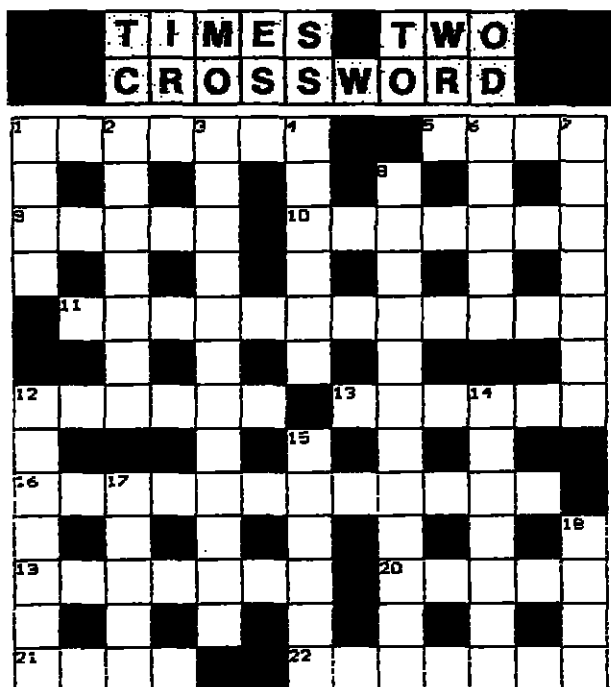
feeling right, it's making runs that is important and Michael hasn't done that for quite a while. We need to bat better at the top of the order if we are to stay in this tournament. We need to believe in ourselves when we are batting."

There were harsh words, too, for Robin Smith, whose first appearance was further delayed by a calf injury. "He was batting in the nets with one pad and was hit twice on his unprotected right calf," Illingworth said. "I don't know why players take chances like that, it makes no sense."

Illingworth defended the exclusion of Desmond Reeve on the grounds of match fitness, but the balance of the side will surely dictate that he plays against Pakistan on Sunday.

He repeated his complaint about inadequate practice facilities, and added another gripe about the decision to continue playing in steady drizzle on Sunday. "The facilities we were promised have not happened, so I am bound to feel let down," he said. "I also think it is unacceptable to ask a side to field for 40 minutes in the rain, and I shall be speaking to the match referee, John Reid, about it."

Illingworth confirmed that England would play a practice match in Karachi on Friday, and then, his piece said, retired to the swimming pool. Barclay, having absorbed the wrath of Illingworth and drafted Atherton's apology to the offended journalist, took gratefully to the mountains.



No 715

ACROSS

- 1 Close imitation (7)
- 5 (Alfred!) run along ground (4)
- 9 Set of links (5)
- 10 Discordantly noisy (7)
- 11 Cause anxiety (m) (3,3,4,2)
- 12 Poor-immigrant area (6)
- 13 Climb up (6)
- 16 Watch (kept on suspect) (12)
- 19 (Math.) exponents (7)
- 20 Quench (5)
- 21 Oscillate up and down (2-2)
- 22 Printing error (7)

DOWN

- 1 A spice: ceremonial staff (4)
- 2 Take size of (7)
- 3 Area MP represents (12)
- 4 Full-length ball (cricket) (6)
- 6 Keep away from (5)
- 7 Lacking flavour (7)
- 8 Shakespeare Roman play (6,6)
- 12 (Maliciously) chatty (7)
- 14 Ravish, delight (7)
- 15 French Pres. palace (6)
- 17 Reddish mild swearword (5)
- 18 Smile radiantly; thick plank (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 714

ACROSS: 3 Dead loss 7 Starve 8 Bencon 9 Boggle 10 Hassle 11 Just 13 Weald 15 Anne 17 Nature 18 Eschew 19 Unpaid 20 Easily 21 Literal

DOWN: 1 Storge 2 Aright 3 Deserve 4 Diehard 5 Occasion 6 Sentence 11 John Bull 12 Soft spot 13 Warrior 14 Lorelei 15 Account 16 Needle

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FA charges Asprilla and Curle

BY PETER BALL AND DAVID MADDOCK

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA has not taken long to fall foul of the football authorities in England. Newcastle United's Colombia international was yesterday charged by the Football Association with misconduct, as was Keith Curle, the Manchester City captain, after clashes between the two during and after the match at Maine Road on Saturday. It was Asprilla's second full game since his £6.7 million transfer from Parma.

During the game, Asprilla appeared to elbow Curle, who seemed to be fouling him at the time; and, at the end of the match, after another altercation, Asprilla appeared to stick his head in Curle's face. Martin Bodenham, the referee, did not see the first incident, but the second took

place in front of Alan Martin, the linesman. Both were seen quite clearly on Match of the Day that evening, together with Curle's reactions.

"The referee's report was faxed to the FA this morning, and officials also studied the video," Clare Tomlinson, an FA press officer, said yesterday. "It was clear that both players had a case to answer."

Asprilla faces one charge of violent conduct and one of ungentlemanly conduct. Curle was charged with ungentlemanly conduct and said yesterday that he was surprised by the FA's action. "I can't say too much, but I didn't expect to be charged because I felt that he had made contact with me," he said.

However, Colin Barlow, the Manchester City managing director, said that

the club would use video evidence to ascertain Curle's innocence. "At this stage, we are still analysing our response to the situation, but our position is that we will let the film evidence speak for itself — it is there to be seen," he said.

Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager, went further and leapt to his captain's defence. "It certainly appeared that Keith was the innocent party," he said.

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said of Asprilla: "One appreciates that the player is new to this country, and that he is an outstanding talent, but, with the TV evidence, I don't see how the FA had any alternative."

Ronald's woe, page 45
Leeds back on trail, page 45

Heat is on as Rousseau enters fray

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE weather may be a typically British talking point, but it is also a big subject for Vincent Rousseau, one of Belgium's best-known citizens. He refuses to work in temperatures above 64F.

When Rousseau, a professional runner, went to the line for the Rotterdam Marathon last year, he was on \$100,000 just to start. He could have run only a few strides to be eligible for his full appearance fee, but a man of rare integrity, he stepped aside with the gun about to go as the temperature rose to 70F.

"I know I cannot run well in hot weather, so why even try?" Rousseau said. He has had an agreement with his national federation that he need not start championship races if the temperature exceeds 64F

and, accordingly, he will not be contesting the Olympic marathon this summer in Atlanta, where heat and humidity will be high.

Instead, Rousseau intends his main marathon of the year to be the Flora London race on April 21. His entry was announced yesterday and, with Dionicio Ceron and German Silva also committed, London may at last witness a men's world best time.

All that is needed is luck with the weather and for Rousseau to recover from the Achilles tendon injury that has forced him to train more in the pool than on the roads for the past five weeks. "If everything is right for me on the day, I know I can break the world record," Rousseau, a newcomer to the London Marathon, said.

Rousseau is the only athlete in marathon history to have



Rousseau: London target

broken 2hr 08min twice. Ceron, who is on a hat-trick of London victories, is the only runner to beat 2hr 09min twice in London, both times in adverse conditions. Silva, his fellow Mexican, has been New York City champion for the past two years.

In his most recent marathon, in Berlin last September, Rousseau was only 30sec outside the world best of 2hr 06min 50sec, set by Belayneh Dinsamo, of Ethiopia, in 1988. He has not insisted on a weather clause in his London contract, as he has in some of his marathons.

"There is nothing in our contract with him that talks about the weather," David Bedford, the elite race director, said. "He is well aware of the likely conditions and I suspect that, even last year, it would not have precluded him from running well."

On an 11am reading, when the elite race was well into its second half, the temperature last year was 53F. The hottest was 58F, in 1988, well within Rousseau's working limit. "That's why we chose London," Rene Devos, Rousseau's manager, said. "It's not a big risk."

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Quentin Letts on America's obsession with capital punishment



Front row seats: the witnesses to executions in the Florida state prison "death house" are positioned only a few feet from the condemned man as he sits in the electric chair

Dead convincing?

A new film, *Dead Man Walking*, focuses on the death penalty in America. It has been made by two of Hollywood's leading liberals, Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins, and is based on a book by Sister Helen Prejean, a Roman Catholic nun. Between them, these three dear hearts may, unwittingly, have crafted a recruiting tool for the pro-hanging lobby.

Midway through the film a lawyer rates his chances of a reprieve for murderer Matthew Poncelet (Sean Penn) as "one in a thousand", and I reckoned the same odds on the movie springing any surprises. I entered the cinema with a long-held distaste for the death penalty. It is an issue on which I have argued with right-wing friends, and on which I felt immovable. At the end of *Dead Man Walking*, however, I left the picture house uttering a solemn hurrah for the executioners.

Sarandon and Robbins would reportedly prefer their audience to swing the other way, and, on discovering the story of a frail nun taking on the US prison system, probably felt it made an emotional case against the brutality of state killing. Sarandon plays Sister Helen with hushed disbelief at the injustice of it all, and death row is shown for the unyielding place it is.

The film's release — how grim that word seems here — has fallen at a topical time. Last year's death row cull in this land of the free was 56, the highest since 1977, and *Dead Man Walking* coincided with two high-profile executions. There was a hanging in Delaware, and a rare firing squad in Utah. John Albert Taylor was the first prisoner to select that option since Gary Gilmore in 1977. Taylor declined execution by fatal injection because he did not want to flop around on the prison slab like an out-of-water goldfish gasping for air. When the newscasts confirmed that the execution had been carried out, that the squad's bullets had slapped his lifeless body against the back of a restraining chair, my shoulder blades tingled with horror.

My feelings on capital punishment first crystallised in 1979 when, as a 16-year-old schoolboy in Hertfordshire, I read with rising distress the dispatches from Florida's death row. John Spinkelink, a drifter, was sentenced to the electric chair for murder. It was the first time Old Sparky had been revved up for years, and Spinkelink was its first unwilling customer under America's revised capital punishment laws (previously, prisoners had to consent to being executed). Poor wretch, he endured five appeals to the Supreme Court before he died, and his lawyer compared the governor of Florida to a Roman emperor giving the deadly thumbs-up at the Coliseum. The line is subtly reworked in the film.

Sean Penn's Poncelet claims he is innocent, almost until the end. It is only when he realises that his last appeal has failed that he has the moral fibre to admit he is guilty of his crime. There is no room here for the argument — a valid one — that



Sisterly love: Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon star in *Dead Man Walking*

capital punishment is ill-advised because condemned men may sometimes be innocent of the crime. It is only when he starts to feel remorse and accept that he owes an apology to his victims' parents. That apology is delivered in the film's most startling scene, when a strapped, locked Poncelet is hoisted up to face the parents before they witness his execution. He is shivering with fear and looks like a trussed laboratory rat, but the death penalty, bluntly, has achieved some good. He recants.

"You'll cry at the end," said a liberal who had seen the film earlier. There were certainly some sniffles in the packed Manhattan cinema, but not from this quarter. Director Robbins, to his credit, balances the film by showing the parents' side of the story and it is simply more powerful than the inconvenience dished out to Poncelet. There is also the irritating naivety of Sarandon's Sister Helen, who

fails to appreciate that her black neighbours in the slums of New Orleans might dislike her embracing the cause of a white supremacist, or that she might possibly have angered the grieving parents by her stance. You want to shake her and say: "Wake up, Sister". How can she be so out of touch with the feelings of ordinary people?

Last year's execution in Georgia of Nicholas Ingram, a British subject convicted of murder, illustrated how different American attitudes to the death penalty are from those on the European side of the Atlantic. The large British press corps which reported Ingram's fate generally felt sorry for him, and was overheard to say so by one or two Georgians. Their reaction, understandably, was that it was "none of your business" (just as the IRA should be none of theirs). Yet London-based Amnesty International is co-ordinating worldwide opposition to America's death penalties, and complaints have come from such temples of righteousness as the Swedish Psychological Association and Germany's Green party.

They are unlikely to have

much impact. In Britain one can usually silence pro-hangers by asking: "Could you pull the lever yourself?" The normal reply, after a pause, is a subdued "No". Not in America. Before John Albert Taylor was shot in Utah last month, Salt Lake City's corrections department had to issue a desperate request for members of the public, please, to stop telephoning its office to volunteer their services as members of the firing squad. This is a bruising, self-defending, often unsympathetic

no one seemed to notice the music being played on the sound system. Some berk had put on the theme tune to *Born Free*.

Sarandon and Robbins are paid-up members of the Vanessa Redgrave school of award ceremony acceptance manners. This could make things interesting at this year's Oscars night, for *Dead Man Walking* has grabbed four nominations, including personal citations for its two main names. Only then, provided one of them makes it to society. No matter how much one may continue to dislike the drawn-out delays on death row cases, and the extra misery they bring condemned men, the death penalty is simply not an issue in the early stages of the 1996 presidential campaign. Few people are worried that the majority of death row convicts are poor, or about the number of them that are black. There is more fuss about murderers who try to save their necks, such as the obese murderer on the north-west coast who is gorging himself on prison food with the aim of claiming that he is too heavy to be hanged. His lawyers say he is so fat that when the trap door opens his head will be ripped off by the noose, constituting "unnecessary cruelty".

allows humour perists. When, in Washington state managed to fill the vacancy of official hangman, one humorist asked if "headhunters" had been employed. The fellow who was hanged in Delaware last month mounted the scaffold as the wind whistled all around. "Any last words?" said a guard. "No, sir," said the condemned man. But his reply was lost in the breeze and the guard asked, without intended irony: "Pardon?"

Sometimes the joke can be unintentional. As we all waited in that New York cinema for the house lights to dim for *Dead Man Walking*,

'1995's death row cull in the land of the free was 56'

the winners' microphone and realises that the world is watching, may we find out which side of the death penalty debate they really intended this undeniably powerful film to fall.

Don't let them silence the voice of Today

If *Today* is to lose anyone, it should be Anna Ford, says Giles Coren

The reasons suggested by some at the BBC for its failure to renew Peter Hobday's contract on Radio 4's *Today* programme are miserably predictable. Middle-class? Of course he is middle-class, he is a salaried professional. Does it have in mind some monocoed twit who would do the job for fun and forgo the salary? Or a working-class hero who fancied presenting a BBC breakfast show?

As for middle-aged, do they imagine that Terry Christian and Amanda de Cadenet could whip the nation's youth into a frenzy of interest in the ERM?

No, it was just change for change's sake, and the BBC has chosen the wrong head for the axe. Peter Hobday is the perfect *Today* man. In an age of increasingly aggressive interviewing, he retains the laid-back conversational style of the old days. He is the wittiest of them all, and urbane and self-deprecating where Humphrys is brittle and James Naughtie is terrier-like and political. He has a humanity, like the late Brian Redhead, that the other presenters could never bring to the show without him. His voice is warm and avuncular, and even his name is perfect.

SAVE HOBDAY

DROP FORD

Today is the first syllable in all about domesticity and breakfast, poached eggs and tea. The second is shared with the name of the programme's quotidian, inevitable and welcome.

If someone does have to go, then Anna Ford would be less sorely missed. She is too famous to sit with the hallowed team, which always depended on a family feel — it needs no glamorous media queens.

When the chemistry of the show is lauded it is Hobday, MacGregor, Naughtie and Humphrys that are tied together. Ms Ford does not slip into the formula so easily: always a newsreader, declaiming her lines rather than interacting.

And while Mr Hobday may find himself down at the DSS pretty soon after his final broadcast, Ms Ford would manage perfectly well. Reports in 1994 claimed that she made £85,000 from the BBC for three days a week on the *Six O'Clock News*, and up to £5,000 for corporate presentation work. Compared with this, the £500-a-day for stints on *Today* will hardly be missed.

Although if it is, we will be the first to know. When 13,000 BBC staff went on strike over pay in 1994, she crossed the picket lines waving the excuse that she could not afford to strike because she was a single parent bringing up two children alone.

Remember, she threw a glass of chablis over Jonathan Aitken when he sacked her from TV-am in 1983, adding: "My only regret is that I didn't punch him in the mouth." Do we want someone like that in our bedrooms first thing in the morning rather than nice Mr Hobday?

Apart from anything else, Mr Aitken's ongoing battle with *Today* may be fuelled by a desire for public revenge on Ms Ford. It seems she is making a great institution the target of Westminster prejudice.

During the last calls for revolution at *Today*, in 1994, the editor, Roger Mosey, put off the insurgents with portentous observations: "We have to be the classic brand so that we stand out. If that means being traditional rather than letting standards drop, so be it."

If *Today* is to survive, Mr Hobday must stay. It is as crucial to the British state of mind as the 1912 Antarctic expedition. So Ms Ford should do for Mr Hobday what Captain Oates did for Scott: step outside, and tell the listening millions that she may be some time.

Tomorrow: Magnus Linklater throws John Humphrys overboard

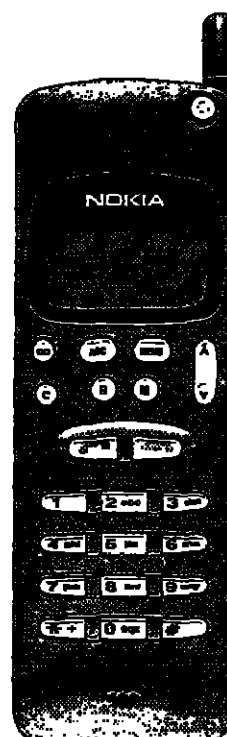
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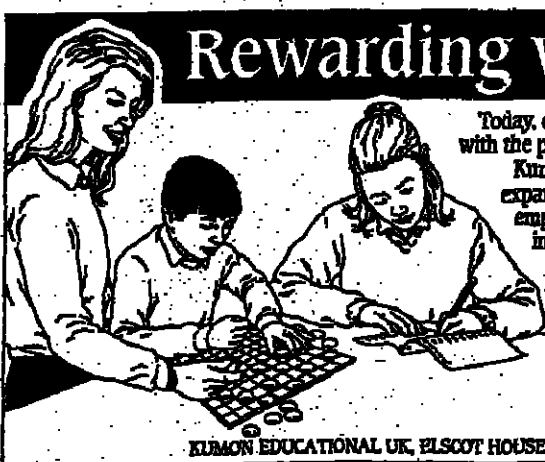
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Whitehall without whitewash

Sue Cameron says the Civil Service cannot hide from Scott

The wreck of Whitehall's once-proud government machine seemed complete yesterday, given the paucity of the reform package announced by Ian Lang, Senior civil servants and ministers have had 12 days to put together a set of changes that might have begun to restore public confidence in Whitehall. Instead, as Labour's Robin Cook pointed out, the most striking thing about the Government's response was the shortage of specific proposals.

As Mr Cook emphasised, it was secrecy that caused the exports-to-Iraq scandal. As he rightly said, one of the best ever cases for a Freedom of Information Act was provided by the long line of ministers and officials who told the Scott inquiry that the public's best interest lay in not knowing what was going on.

A Freedom of Information Act would not force the Civil Service to reveal all of its secrets, but it would set a tone of candour in Whitehall. That may be why the Government has set its face against such an Act. It is certainly why such an Act is now favoured by Sir Frank Cooper, once permanent secretary at Defence, and Sir Patrick Nairn, who spent 20 years in the same department before becoming permanent secretary at Health.

Sir Patrick was one of the authors of the Franks report, which detailed Whitehall's failings in the Falklands conflict. Franks differed from Scott in that it was short — 106 pages — sharp and produced in only six months. But its findings will be familiar to those who have wrestled with Scott's six wordy tomes. It depicted serious inadequacies in co-ordinating the operations of different government departments and in ensuring that intelligence reached those who needed to see it.

The difference is that this time the Civil Service may find it harder to lick its wounds in private and then carry on as before. This time there may be no hiding place.

For one thing the catalogue of misjudgments and misconduct is too long to set aside. Named officials are found wanting on a great range of issues, including "unacceptable carelessness". Scott criticises the most senior officials of all. Sir Robert Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, for trying to reconcile half-truths with "the obligation to avoid giving misleading answers".

The civil servant who ran the Department of Trade and Industry's export licensing branch described it to Scott as a "bureaucratic paper factory". He also admitted that its arrangements for distributing intelligence reports were "frankly hit and miss". Scott cites a key report which nobody bothered to read for weeks, and notes acidly that this was "a clear case of a miss".

Not bothering seems to have been a feature of Whitehall. Scott suggests that DTI officials did not pay much attention at all to the question of whether or not Matrix Churchill machine-tools would be

used for military purposes. Even more worrying is the way some civil servants seem to have usurped the powers of ministers. Scott says of one Ministry of Defence official that he "ought not to have assumed without ministers' express concurrence, which was never sought and never given, that the minister was content to relinquish his personal supervision of the Inter-Departmental Committee on licensing decisions and to delegate... to officials".

Findings like this could convince new Labour that the old socialist paranoia about civil servants was right all along.

The Scott report also highlights the way Whitehall's cult of secrecy undermines the democratic process, with Parliament and the public being denied the information they need to apportion blame when things go wrong.

For Whitehall, the damage is in the detail. And in the publicity. Last week saw an extraordinary innovation. Stephen Wall, formerly the Prime Minister's private secretary dealing with foreign affairs, defended himself against questions raised by Sir Richard Scott about his conduct. The questions included Mr Wall's decision to delete from a draft letter on export guidelines the words "major modifications" before giving the letter to John Major. Scott criticises Mr Wall for neither consulting officials in any relevant department, nor drawing the Prime Minister's attention to the deletion. But the real point is that Mr Wall made his defence in the letters columns of *The Times*. Doubtless he feels he has not had adequate opportunity to put his side of the story. Hence his decision to go public so dramatically. But when Britain's most senior civil servants start justifying their drafting emendations in the public prints, Whitehall's cover is blown.

Openness might shine some light on the good aspects too

Yet the immediate impact of Scott on Whitehall will not be dramatic, no matter how much the reform package is hyped by politicians. In the short term, there is likely to be a resurgence of what one former mandarin calls "orthodoxy", with civil servants playing down everything by the book. The Government's new Civil Service Code is not enough to rebuild public confidence. What is needed, as well as a Freedom of Information Act, is a Civil Service Act giving all officials a duty to the public interest beyond that which they owe to the government of the day. A cross-party committee of Privy Counsellors, who could decide hard cases in confidence, could be one mechanism for ensuring that political expediency is not a consideration.

Greater openness and accountability must be better than the dishonesty and incompetence in Whitehall that Sir Richard Scott has brought to light. More openness might also allow the light to shine on those aspects of the Civil Service which continue to serve us well.



"Strange how you can wait ages for one, then they all come along together..."

Last of the laager louts

As blacks enter their schools, white South Africans are in for an education

My heart is in Potgietersrus, 180 miles of bare veld north of Johannesburg. It hovers over the school gate, cheering on the black children who, undeterred by last week's demonstrations by white parents, are asserting their right to be educated in hitherto whites-only schools. The hovering heart also sends messages of support to the Afrikaner children who — once their frightened parents are out of sight — will cautiously smile "Hi, man!" at the new black intake. Good luck, kids. Relax. It has to work. It will be a lot more fun than school used to be in South Africa, too. I know. I was there 30 years ago, saluting the Voortrekkers and drilling in khaki colours.

Of course, nobody ever said that building the new South Africa would be easy. The old South Africa was too monstrous and ridiculous for that. The economics of common justice are daunting: the Northern Province needs 35,000 new classrooms instantly if black children are to be given a chance. But gradually, it will happen. The miracle which has brought many of us to tears of wonder over the past few years is that it is happening without a massive bloodbath. Even last week, after Afrikaner parents had threatened black pupils with sjamboks, the provincial premier, Ngako Ramathodi, said with Mandela gentleness: "We don't want to humiliate the governing body, nor the white parents. We understand their fears. We hope that the white children are not removed because the South Africa in which they are going to live is a South Africa where there is a black face everywhere... you cannot prepare children to live in a dinosaur age. They must be allowed to grow with their fellow citizens, to play with them and get to know each other." One of the black mothers, watching her daughter walk past the line of police, said placidly: "After living in this town we are used to not being accepted by whites. Eventually the Boers will get used to it."

Does not the heart leap at the patience, humour and statesmanship of this long-abused race? If the ANC can speak sympathetically of white fears, so can we. Particularly touching is the attempt by the Potgietersrus Baas-and-Madam community to play the culture card, announcing that their "Christian values and mother tongue" will be lost. Poor devils. They may look fierce, these Afrikaner parents, but it is not a

proud tradition they are protecting, just an ancient, frozen habit of terror. They huddle on their island around the failing flame of their "culture", and fail to notice that the tide is down and that on the mainland they could dance round a bigger, brighter flame. The school-gate scenes touch me so closely because I was 12 years old in 1962 when my father was posted as British Consul to Johannesburg. Those were the days of high-visibility apartheid: separate buses, park benches, everything. Our black gardener was beaten up by the police for going out without his identity

card; our neighbours' children did not mix with us because we taught the maid's ten-year-old to swim in our pool. It was not the role of British diplomatic families to march in the streets against this nonsense, but our parents were anxious not to let the culture seep into us. Filling in our landing forms on the ship, we were allowed to amuse ourselves with the question "Race": my mother put "3.30 Kempton Park", my brother "Ladies 200m breaststroke"; I put "Furnace" and my father, eerily, "Protestant". More over, in the school holidays, my mother marched us down to Alexandra township to dole out skimmed milk and peanut-butter sandwiches with a relief scheme, so we could see the other lives that underpinned our balmey poolside world.

But of course, we had to go to school. I was a boarder at a convent in Krugersdorp for what was probably the most truly educational year of my life. Not academically: although St Ursula's would have considered itself socially a cut above Potgietersrus state primary, so was I in a class of 15-year-olds. I managed to evade compulsory Afrikaans by doing extra touch-typing, but was surprised to find that history was not on the syllabus. History, after all, is full of embarrassing things such as revolutions which work. We had the odd lecture on the Voortrekkers, but beyond that nothing.

For literature, we looked resolutely back to the old country at its fustiest: Dinah Mary Mulock's *John Halifax, Gentleman* was our set book all year, and to this day I can bring a party to a standstill with my rendering of "The Wee Cooper who lived in a little (nicky nacky noo noo noo)" in a staccato, truant Afrikaner accent, as we performed it in a hundred-strong chorus at the Jorburg Schools Bisteded.

Otherwise it was commercial arithmetic, RI with strangely white-skinned biblical illustrations, and plenty of counter-marching in khaki

and sway in church with black congregations. Johannesburg's museum mounted the *Man in Africa* exhibition which I visited repeatedly, entranced by the ancient civilisations and crafts and emotional pull of mother Africa. Sometimes there would be a chance to see tribal dancing or singing at a carefully regulated tourist entertainment. Always I would go back to school with a sense of bewilderment that in the midst of this great, rich, exciting, rhythmic, living continent all we could do was read *John Halifax, Gentleman*, and recite poems about wee Scottish coopers in the Fife shire rain. Nor was our school song very convincing: "Who knows the school? Who knows St Ursula's School? Shout it over Africa, back comes the call from nuns and teachers, mothers, wives... old girls all!" I used to envisage us standing on a box in our drill-tunics shouting "Who knows St Ursula's?" to imitable startled wildebeests, Zulu kings and Xhosa herdsmen. I felt irrelevant.

There were few rebels: the fear was too strong. So obviously mad and dangerous was the suppression of the many by the few that when I eventually left for England I thought that my father, staying behind, would die in some enormous and imminent bloodbath. Fear, not "culture", held the white community together. One school had-girl, a legend in her time, brought a careers talk to a standstill when as the others piped "I want to be a nurse, mother" or "A teacher, mother" she said "I want to be a Zulu!" I was told about this in a dark dormitory, the taboo of it worse than incest.

That year left me not only with strong, mixed feelings about South Africa, but with a wider conviction that applies to institutions nearer home. It is that even in a school, you cannot ring-fence a culture, a religion or a way of life without becoming ridiculous. All you can do is celebrate the culture, demonstrate the way of life, live the religion. If it is fit to survive, it will. The Potgietersrus parents had better put away their sjamboks and start holding slide lectures, with free tea and biscuits for all, on "Why we are actually rather proud of the brave Voortrekkers". Or perhaps teaching black children *The Wee Cooper of Fife*, and letting them put their own hip-swinging rhythms to it. Good luck to all of them, together.

Tony Blair has already pledged himself to spend £500 million from privatised utility investors, to punish some of their directors for making personal gains which offend many of us. The cash is to be seized from shareholders who are blameless (because they could not have altered the arrangements made before they had known about them), and it is intended to finance training schemes of dubious worth.

Pension off Labour's old ideas

Woodrow Wyatt calls for realism about welfare

It is a journalists' cliché that after nearly 17 years of Tory rule, the Government is weary and incapable of producing fresh ideas. Yet Michael Howard has new ones to combat crime almost every week, including the use of DNA. Mrs Shephard makes the running on education, forcing the Opposition to follow her; and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is a mine of initiatives. Lilley has begun the saving of a billion pounds a year by catching benefit fraudsters and denying another £230 million yearly to bogus asylum-seekers. But these are not the only problems with the relentlessly mounting expenditure on the welfare state. Since it began in 1948, this has grown 5 per cent a year faster than inflation, and twice as fast as growth in the national income.

Pensions are a huge element spending on the elderly accounts for nearly half of the social security budget. From the start the funding of state pensions was a swindle. The premiums were not commercially invested; current pensions are paid out of current contributions, on a pay as we go basis. Recently the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicted that by the year 2030, with their present pension systems, the national debt of France and Germany might roughly double. But because Peter Lilley is encouraging the development of privately funded pensions, with the money commercially invested, it forecasts that by 2030 Britain will have paid off its entire national debt.

According to Mr Lilley, the total value of investment in our private pension funds is now nearly £600 billion, more than all the other countries in the EU put together — and £100 billion more than in the previous year. So although the state spends £90 billion a year on social security, the value of what the private sector saves for retirement increases by even more.

A significant decision in the 1980s was to match the basic pension to prices, not to average earnings. This saves taxpayers £7.3 billion a year, or 4.5 per cent on the basic rate of income tax. Nevertheless, Mrs Serps pensions have been checked, an extra £1.2 billion goes to the less well-off pensioners through improved income-related benefits. Now, it is recommended that all employees contribute to an earnings-related pension — preferably through an occupational or personal pension scheme. More than half of all the 5.5 million personal pensions used to contract out of Serps have been taken out by under-35s.

On average, pensioners' incomes have risen almost as much each year since 1979 as they did in the whole of the last four years of Labour government. With life expectations increasing, the decision to make 65 the retirement age for both men and women will add £13 billion a year. The BBC's *Newsnight* followed Labour's Shadow Social Security Secretary, Chris Smith, as he examined the Australian pension system. He was particularly interested in Australia's compulsory, industry-wide superannuation funds. These are administered jointly by employers and trade unions, giving the unions power over how they are invested. According to *Newsnight*, Mr Smith said that central or industry-wide funds in Britain "would most likely be invested in a mix of the market and job creating schemes to improve infrastructure". Oh dear, oh dear. The old charge that the socialists would raid the people's pension funds appears due for a revival under New Labour.

Tony Blair has already pledged himself to spend £500 million from privatised utility investors, to punish some of their directors for making personal gains which offend many of us. The cash is to be seized from shareholders who are blameless (because they could not have altered the arrangements made before they had known about them), and it is intended to finance training schemes of dubious worth.

The old socialist heart still yearns to control us all from Whitehall. Not only pensioners, but industry and commerce would be severely damaged by a Blair government, acting in the cavalier manner of Brussels, to which Mr Blair is addicted. He has a worrying streak of authoritarianism about him. At the 1995 Labour Party conference, he talked of a guaranteed minimum standard of living for our pensioners. "The aim of the policy is to... guarantee a minimum income," he said. This would involve a return of the hated means test, and a compulsion to remain in the unwelcome Serps, which Labour is determined to retain, adding enormously to social security expenditure.

Chris Smith claimed in a letter to *The Times* that "the most current personal pensions, at least £1 of every £4 contributed gets swallowed up in administrative fees and charges". Myseriously, this does not prevent the best of them rising in value by nearly 10 per cent a year, above inflation. Whichever way you look, Labour's old-fashioned dirigisme would set back the Tories' modest, free-market and democratic advances.

Aga agonies

THE AGA backlash has begun. A campaign against the hearty, hearty home-cooking of Delia Smith is to be launched today. The Cooks Off Club aims to get women out of the kitchen, and its launch has already boiled over into sizzling row about the merits of the kitchen stove.

The anti-Aga movement is spearheaded by the writer Sue Limb. On Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* recently, she poked fun at women who are "stove slaves" — and the programme was overwhelmed by the response. "We realised that there are an awful lot of people who hate cooking but are afraid to admit it," says the programme producer, Jane O'Rourke. "We will be asking people to send in ideas on how to avoid cooking and to re-educate people to enjoy raw food."

Egon Ronay, one of the great masters of the stove, is sad for the club's members. "They are the losers. With a little imagination, cooking gives a lot of pleasure," he says. "It is no longer the chore that it used to be. If women leave the stove, it is an opportunity for the men."

Mary Berry, author of *The Aga*

Book, is equally dismissive. "People who haven't got Agas are probably leading the campaign. But it's not just cooking: it's warmth and comfort and somewhere to dry the tea-towels. The Aga is a way of life."

Professor Sir John Gurdon, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, made a recent shopping excursion to Ryder & Amies,



"I'm going out now - I see you may be some time"

one of the college's outfitters. After considering some ties he selected a nifty blue striped number emblazoned with a dragon. Only later did he discover that it is the tie of the Wyvern Society, a drinking club he banned from the college last year.

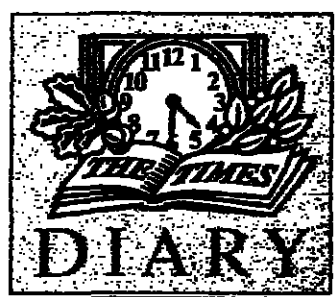
Delivery boy

PETER MANDELSON, the Labour Party's snake in the grass, has a slippery competitor in Michael Horsley, the twentysomething Tory candidate for his constituency in Hartlepool.

Horsley has written a booklet along the lines of Mandelson's great opus *The Blair Revolution: Can Labour Deliver?* Horsley's work — entitled *The Hartlepool Disillusion: Can Peter Mandelson Deliver?* — was also launched yesterday, and questions Mandelson's commitment to the town in view of his metropolitan spin-doctoring.

Uniformity

LONDON's tailors are competing to sew up the sort of deal that comes along once in a political revolution. Five years after the fall of communism, and just weeks before Tirana's stock exchange starts trading, Albania wants new



uniforms for its police force. An advertisement in the *Financial Times* yesterday announced that the Ministry of the Interior had made available 23,160,000 leke (more than £150,000) for materials. The winning bid for the supply of poplin and waterproof cloth will be plucked out of the helmet in April.

Top gun

NEWS that royal security is to be stepped up in the light of recent events is hardly likely to perturb one member of the family. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother probably knows how to handle a handgun better than any of the rest of her clan.

During the war, she took lessons, along with the King, on a firing range set up in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, so that she

would be able to defend herself in the event of an encounter with a German parachutist.

Lord Halifax stopped taking his shortcut across the Palace grounds on his way to the Foreign Office when he discovered this, but Her Majesty was in fact a crack shot. She once told Harold Nicolson: "I will not go down like the others" a scathing reference to lesser European monarchs.

Can-do girl

SHOULD you spot a shuffling figure draped in old newspapers near Kensington High Street this week, it is unlikely to be a down and out. On Thursday, the Recycled Fashion Show takes to the catwalk in Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall, and ladies who prefer haute couture should stay away.

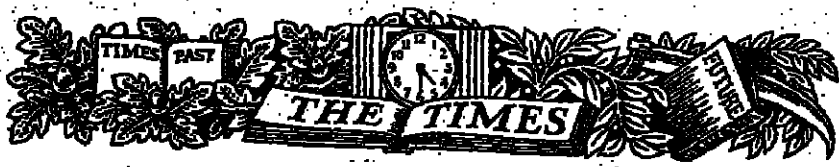
Highlight of the accessories will be a wellington boot transformed into a sturdy but serviceable handbag. One squeaky full-length gown has been constructed out of rubber gloves and scouring pads. But pride of place must go to Glasgow student Carol May's glanking cocktail dress, which she welded together from soft drinks cans, and which comes complete with ring-pull jewellery.

P.H.S



Authentic can-can dress





ALL HONOURABLE MEN

A sidelined debate at the House of Commons

Days before Ian Lang got to his feet yesterday, there was a decreasing connection between the content of the Scott report — or the government decisions concerning his recommendations — and the vote due late last night. The Government's fate lay with those of its own MPs whose disaffection predated Scott, and with Ulstermen whose vote would be determined by their perceptions of John Major's probable next steps on Northern Ireland.

Rarely has a parliamentary debate on such a serious subject taken on so surreal an air. However hard Robin Cook tried to hammer the nails in the coffin, everybody present knew that what he said would have limited bearing on whether the Opposition would be able, for a night at least, to lay John Major's political body in it.

This came as no relief to the Government. The opportunity to be seen to respond soberly to the Scott report's criticisms of the conduct of government was not to be recaptured. The Government has lost not irretrievable ground by the mishandling of its release, through the aggressive tone of Mr Lang's first statement to the House ten days ago and, above all, through John Major's determination to brazen out the finding that Sir Nicholas Lyell had been "personally at fault" in the handling of the Matrix Churchill case. In unpromising circumstances, Mr Lang did his best. The Government has accepted or agreed to open up to thorough review most of Sir Richard's recommendations for the future.

The list presented by Mr Lang includes a review of the State's powers to control exports, essentially unchanged since 1939, and of policies governing arms exports; action to improve the distribution of intelligence information, which the Scott report found to be gravely deficient; and increased supervision by the Attorney-General of Customs and Excise prosecutions.

These are all useful bolts in the stable door. But they are footnotes to Sir Richard's most damning charge: that the Government's public handling of policy on exports to Iran and Iraq revealed a cavalier attitude to ministerial accountability and that the failure of ministers to discharge their duty of accountability had been such as to "undermine... the democratic process".

The Government's first line of defence is that John Major has done more than most Prime Ministers to break down Whitehall's culture of secrecy. Mr Lang made the most of these efforts, citing the new statutory oversight of the intelligence service, the White Paper on Open Government, the release of 48,000 previously confidential public records, the Citizen's Charter and the Questions of Procedure for Ministers which had hitherto been a classified document.

The trouble is that however true this may be, page after page of the Scott report showed how ingrained among officials is the belief that the purpose of drafting a reply to a parliamentary question or an MP's letter is to reveal as little as possible. What is damning about this case is that his report demonstrates that their secrecy accurately reflected their ministerial masters' wishes.

As even Sir Richard accepts, "full information" has been a rule with many exceptions. It is naive to suppose that a Freedom of Information Act would alter that. But the range of questions which, under accepted parliamentary convention, successive governments have declined to answer is too wide. The fresh look at these conventions the Government has now promised is overdue — and particularly with regard to defence sales. Ministers must retain some discretion; there will be cases where disclosure could damage the security of strategically important British allies. But a prejudice in favour of disclosure is now necessary to restore trust between Parliament and public.

CYPRIOT BITTERNESS

The divided island looks infertile for the Dayton process

Just before leaving office, Richard Holbrooke declared his intention to try his Dayton magic on Cyprus, but he was thwarted at the last minute by a new dispute in the Aegean. Malcolm Rifkind has also turned his attention to the divided island, sending the Foreign Office political director on a mission to Athens and Nicosia.

All this enthusiasm for so Sisyphian a task seems surprising: after years of United Nations mediation, poring over maps, indirect talks, personal lobbying by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the negotiations ran into the sand in 1994. The clear lack of political will by both sides was only underlined last summer, when an attempt to start secret talks in London was sabotaged by leaks to the press. Since then, recriminations have only hardened positions.

Bosnia, the Middle East and even, with all its setbacks, Northern Ireland have shown, however, that no political stalemate is too intractable, no hatred too atavistic to be tackled. There are cogent reasons why Cyprus, one of the bitterest of conflicts, needs to be addressed again now. Within two years formal accession negotiations begin with the European Union. The Cyprus Government — currently representing only the Greek side, although it is the only one to be recognised internationally — has been told that talks cannot be concluded as long as the island is divided.

Cost is also forcing the pace. The United Nations force, largely made up of British troops, has been stationed in Cyprus for 21 years. With the huge recent increase in international peacekeeping, and without the money to pay for it, the UN is taking a hard look at open-ended commitments. Member

countries are impatient. They see Cyprus as the classic example of a conflict in which a UN buffer, protecting both sides from the folly of their obstinacy, prevents a settlement by rewarding intransigence. Several countries have already pulled out their troops in exasperation. Only Britain, with the political obligations of a guarantor power and the vital interest of its sovereign bases, dares not force the issue.

The prospects for a new initiative look bleaker than ever, however. Inter-communal negotiations have always been bedevilled by the interference of the two other guarantor powers, Greece and Turkey. At the moment neither has a Government strong enough for the statesmanship needed to overcome mutual hostility; politicians in each country are using the other to divert attention from their own domestic weakness. The recent hullabaloo over the uninhabited rocks off the Turkish coast came close to war; and the consequences are already poisoning the Eastern Mediterranean. Yesterday the Greek Government agreed not to torpedo Turkey's customs union with the European Union. But it set tough conditions.

Mr Rifkind believes, correctly, that Britain cannot go ahead on Cyprus unless backed by the diplomatic weight of America. Mr Holbrooke said recently that Cyprus might be amenable to the Dayton process, but only if three essential preconditions were met: the leaders must have full authority to negotiate; they must be ready to remain at the table indefinitely and they must be prepared to maintain confidentiality. On the present showing, none of those conditions is likely to be fulfilled.

FLOWER POWER

A host of gift-wrapped daffodils is approaching by Interflora

As St Valentine's Day blossomed, the red rose index tripled as fast as the Nikkei in Nick Leeson benefit week. But red roses have dropped back to their natural level in the flower market until their proper season in June. And now in turn daffodil prices are about to shoot up in time for Mother's Day. Flower-watchers predict a steeper daffodil inflation than usual. The flooding of the lower Rhine drowned the daffodils in Holland. The cold spring in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has set back the only crop for which British growers rotate on a level bulb field with the Dutch. And such daffodils as survived the frosts are being grubbed up by the larvae of the narcissus fly.

But they are more than just a pretty flower and hosts (in every sense) of spring. As the secretary of the Flowers & Plants Association points out in a letter today, £830 million a year is spent on cut flowers in the United Kingdom: £15 a head. Daffodils are worth £40 million a year, most of it spent for Mothering Sunday. So this year's bull market for daffodils is golden news for the flower and greeting-card industries, which have taken over the observance of public holidays from the Church and country lore.

This is not such golden news for children. But it could be worse. For the daffodil-men have beaten back a plot by chrysanthemum-growers to move British Mothering Sunday to May, when chrysanthemums flower, in order to harmonise it with America and the rest of Europe. But chrysanthemums are orientals, not native lenten lilies. They

seldom grow wild. In spite of their maternal last syllable, they are more extravagant of pocket money even than March daffodils. And their heads fall off when they are put in a vase. In any case, the proper flower to give on Mother's Day used to be a bunch of wild violets, picked on the way to the mother church in which the child had been baptised.

Although the holy day has been secularised, its roots lie there beneath the gift-wrapping. For this used to be the once-a-year-day on which children in service were allowed home to visit their mothers. Not many are still in service, but children will visit their mothers, or at any rate call them on their mobile telephones. Mothers used to cook a mid-Lent feast on their day, with simnel cakes to commemorate the banquet Joseph gave for his brothers and the feeding of the five thousand: the lessons of the day. Mother still gets to cook lunch. But on Mother's Day the children do something really special for her, like opening the door for her to load the washing-up machine.

The pattern of our holidays turns with the seasons. Christmas for winter-solstice jollity, Valentine for young lovers because birds start to nest, Mother's Day for daffodils and lunch. Father's Day is a newcomer, and his flower comes from Oddbins. Mother's Day in May would be inappropriate. Lenten lilies and family roots suit British Mothering Sunday. But in any case, come May, our gold-fingered florists may have a second bite at the cherry-blossom and chrysanthus for Harmonised International Mother's Day.

Treasury 'wasting' public money

From Sir George Eagle

Sir, At the instance of the Treasury, portions of this year's 408-page Finance Bill were farmed out for drafting by the private sector instead of in the Parliamentary Counsel Office by government draftsmen.

According to the Financial Secretary's written answer on January 30 to a parliamentary question, 33% pages were so drafted at a total cost of £130,000 (including one page not included in the Bill for policy reasons) — which works out at £3,880 a page.

The total of £130,000 is more than the combined annual salaries (at the bottom of their respective pay scales) of one full and one deputy parliamentary counsel, who between them could be expected to produce in the course of a year Bills totalling something like 200 pages, as well as working on regulations to give effect to European Community directives.

Unless private sector drafting is immeasurably better than that of parliamentary counsel, which it isn't, this experiment in privatisation seems a reckless waste of public money. Or could it be that parliamentary counsel — whose 200 pages at the private sector rate would cost all of £776,000 — are grossly underpaid?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE EAGLE
(First Parliamentary Counsel,
1981-86),
32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6,
February 19.

Pension reform

From Mr R. W. Abbott

Sir, Pension reform (Chris Smith's letter, February 20; see also letter, February 22) must begin with a recognition of the facts. National Insurance contributions, payable by those in employment and by their employers, are a form of tax levied to meet the cost of pensions of those retired. As the proportion of workers to retired persons declines, it will become progressively more difficult to meet the cost of even a modest state pension in this way.

What, therefore, is necessary is to abandon the fiction of National Insurance contributions and to raise the required revenue by an additional tax on incomes and additional corporation tax. In this way the tax base would be greatly enlarged, since it would bring within its net unearned income and pensioner income. The right to receive a state pension could then rest on a residence test.

There would obviously need to be transitional arrangements, but over the long term there would be considerable administrative savings to the DSS and a better understanding of state pensions on the part of the general public.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. ABBOTT
(Chairman, Occupational Pensions Board, 1982-87),
43 Rotherdean Place, Palmer Road,
Rotherdean, East Sussex,
February 20.

From Professor David Piacaud
Sir, Peter Lilley (letter, February 22) suggests that Chris Smith's distinction between a guaranteed pension and a guaranteed minimum income is "sophistry". Yet his department makes that very distinction in assessing benefits for the two million pensioners who now receive income support.

Rather than trifling with political quips based on the Scott report, it might be helpful if Mr Lilley worried more about the growing disincentive to save and to work resulting from an increasingly means-tested social security system. In 1979 four million received supplementary benefit; now ten million — one person in six — depend on income support.

He might also be worried that nearly a quarter of the population is now living below half average income level, compared to under one tenth in 1979.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID PIACAUD,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Department of Social Policy
and Administration,
Houghton Street, WC2,
February 23.

Prescription charges

From Dr M. S. Lawrence

Sir, I have a patient whose disposable income is less than £50 a week, yet this is above the threshold entitling her to free prescriptions. Her annual "season ticket" costs her almost two weeks' disposable income, and to obtain her annual medicines (which cost about £200) she has to pay just as much for a season ticket as Miss Helen Davies (letter, February 20) pays for the thousands of pounds' worth of medicines she needs to protect her expensively transplanted kidney.

The identification of certain medical conditions for exemption from charges is flawed and should be abolished. We should concentrate resources on relieving those in financial need by raising the threshold for payment of charges, or reducing the season-ticket charge to those on lower incomes.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN LAWRENCE,
West Street Surgery,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire,
February 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for caution on Airbus subsidies

From Mr Henry Keswick

Sir, In the continuing debate on the future of the European aircraft manufacturing industry any form of government intervention needs to be viewed with extreme caution. This applies, in particular, to the \$8-12 billion development costs in prospect for the building of a new "jumbo" European Airbus (report, January 27).

We should not forget our past experience of subsidising losses in the shipbuilding and coal-producing industries by tax incentives and government funding. Is aircraft manufacturing any different?

The current problems of Fokker and the German shipbuilding industry (report, February 23) show what eventually happens with restrictive labour laws and government subsidies: eventually the competitive world marketplace frightens off providers of capital.

British Aerospace are nimble traders who keep their costs under control and profitably make the wings for Airbus. But does anybody really know the cost of the French and German parts of the aircraft and the extent of their government subsidy to promote a pan-European dream of an aircraft manufacturing industry?

British Aerospace, working with the future privatised and, hopefully, transparent French aircraft companies, together with a newly invigorated Daimler Benz, should be the ones to decide their commercial risks, not the UK Government.

British manufacturers must compete in a worldwide market of the European Union, the North Atlantic Free Trade Area and the Pacific Rim. The

latter two areas are growing faster than a subsidised, over-regulated and possibly ring-fenced Europe. We should learn from the great success of Rolls-Royce's spectacular order from Singapore Airlines (report, Business, November 15, 1995), won in an open worldwide competition.

Other British aircraft component manufacturers have had equal success with hydraulics, instrumentation, etc. If we can take advantage of Boeing's defence sales subsidies we should do so like limpets on the bottom of an ocean liner (aero-engine limpets are worth their weight in gold).

International trade and finance is principally conducted in US dollars — still the greatest reserve currency of international commerce. We should not concern ourselves with irrelevant and inward-looking euros: Singapore Airlines were not interested in the value of the euro. Our mutual dependence on each other's cheese and jam will keep pan-European trade flowing even if we do keep our sovereign currency.

Britain will strengthen its position as the enterprise centre of Europe, provided that there is no return to government intervention in commerce. Such intervention will only lead to a short-term fix followed by bankruptcy — as the sad workers of Fokker and the German shipyards are now learning to their cost.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY KESWICK
(Chairman),
Matheson & Co Ltd,
3 Lombard Street, EC3,
February 26.

Library technology

From the Chief Executive of the British Library

Sir, Your leading article on the British Library (February 22) rightly refers to some of the implications of recent technological developments for libraries. The British Library is more than simply "aware of these issues".

While awaiting the handover of the new St Pancras building from the Department of National Heritage, we have focused on how best to exploit new technology to meet our traditional responsibilities to collect, store and provide access to published information. Considerable progress has been made.

Users no longer need to visit our reading rooms to consult our catalogues; millions of records describing items in our collection are available on-line. Rare and fragile documents can be digitised and given worldwide access (the unique manuscript of Beowulf is now on the Internet). Over one million patent specifications are held by the library on CD-Rom so that information can be retrieved and printed in less than two minutes.

Not quite forgotten

From Mr John D. Hart

Sir, Your political reporter, in her review of Lord Goschen's ancestors ("Labour aims to torpedo 'boy scout' on the bridge", February 22), ascribes the remark, "I had forgotten Goschen", to Lord Salisbury when he was looking for a new Chancellor of the Exchequer after Lord Randolph Churchill had resigned "in a huff" in 1886. It was, in fact, Lord Randolph himself who said: "All great men make mistakes. Napoleon forgot Blücher. I forgot Goschen."

Winston, in his biography of his father, points out that the saying, "so often attributed to him", is "interpreted

as a key to deep designs" but he shows that Lord Randolph was not involved in any plot against Salisbury and had merely overlooked "Mr Goschen's financial reputation in connection with a vacancy at the Exchequer".

George Joachim, 1st Lord Goschen, has his own entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* for saying in the Commons in 1884: "I have not the courtesy to give a political blank cheque to Lord Salisbury."

And he still got the job!

Yours faithfully,
J. D. HART,
Hill House,
Marlesford, Wickham Market,
Woodbridge, Suffolk,
February 23.

In blooming health

From the Secretary of the Flowers & Plants Association

Sir, In your report of February 20, "Daffodil growers fight to retain mother of all flower days", Mr Don Barnes, Secretary of the Daffodil Society, was quoted as saying the total daffodil market in Britain was worth £100 million per annum, with £10 million accounted for by Mother's Day.

Your readers may be interested to learn that the total annual spend on all cut flowers in the UK is £830 mil-

lion (£15 per head) — £50 million of which is centred on Mother's Day and £22 million on St Valentine's Day.

The UK may be third from the bottom in the European league table of cut-flower spending, but this association likes to see every penny accounted for.

Yours sincerely,
VERONICA RICHARDSON,
Secretary,
Flowers & Plants Association,
Covent House,
New Covent Garden Market, SW8,
February 21.

Muffled guns

From Mr Derek Bingham

Sir, Among the most efficient ear protectors for sportsmen are those which are tailor-made to fit into the ear and so cannot easily be seen by an onlooker ("Ear apparent", PHS Diary, February 23).

I wear a hearing aid in my left ear, switched off while shooting, which I am assured by my specialist is very efficient, and a normal plug in my right ear.

I do not see the Prince of Wales "flinching", if only because your picture was not taken at the moment of firing.

Yours etc,
DEREK BINGHAM
(Editor, *The Field*, 1971-84),
Cooks Barn, Chillesford Lodge,
Sudbourne, Woodbridge, Suffolk,
February 26.

A squirrel warning

From Mr K. G. Spencer

Sir, Thirty years ago, I postulated Spencer's Law, which says that any significant increase of any animal or bird population will inevitably be followed by a demand for its reduction.

Those who advocate an intensification of the campaign against grey squirrels (letters, February 12, 19) by dubiously humane means might do well to keep that in mind.

I am old enough to remember when it was the red squirrel that was regarded as a terrible pest by gamekeepers and foresters alike. Only since the increase of the grey squirrel has the red been counted among the "goodies" and the grey become the major target of human dislike. Its biological success seems a poor excuse for its persecution.

Yours truly,
K. G. SPENCER,
167 Manchester Road,
Burnley, Lancashire,
February 20.

A sombre view of Dedham Vale

From Mr Ian Miller

Sir, The article by Simon Jenkins ("Harvest of bricks and mortar", February 24) on the National Gallery's current exhibition, *At Home with Constable's Cornfield*, is of interest to me. I am a farmer in Dedham Vale, where, as he says, nothing much has changed since Constable's day.

Paintings hung at the Royal Academy's annual exhibition have often made a political statement. In this case, to my eye, although the corn is standing high, the sheep are unshorn, the field gate is off its top hinge and a plough lies abandoned from the previous autumn or spring. There are few labourers in the harvest field.

In 1826, when Constable exhibited this picture, although he painted it long before, corn prices were unstable as a result of foreign imports: there was rural poverty; workers were leaving the land for the city and what appeared a fine sunset could instead well have been a rick set on fire by discontented labourers.

I believe that if Constable were able to return today he might say he was not encouraged by the state of farming in this area.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MILLER,
Clapper Farm,
East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex,
February 24.

School of art

From Mrs Audrey Mills

Sir, One of your articles about the Royal College of Art (February 19) states that it was Benjamin Haydon, the artist, who promoted the idea of such an institution. Haydon was head boy of Plympton Grammar School, Devon, in 1801, the school attended some seven years earlier by Sir Joshua Reynolds, first President of the Royal Academy. Also a pupil of the school was the first director of the National Gallery, Sir Charles Lock Eastlake, PRA from 1850 to 1865.

This contribution to English art by one school must be unequalled. Is there another sphere of activity where a school can claim associations equally illustrious?

Yours faithfully,
AUDREY F. MILLS,
67 Fore Street,
Plymouth ST Maurice, Devon,
February 20.

Secretaries still

From Ms Jo Gardiner

Sir, The role of the secretary has indeed changed substantially in recent years ("So it's all over for secretaries...", February 20). But research carried out last year by the Industrial Society and the Secretarial Development Network shows that over 80 per cent of organisations still use the term secretary in job titles.

Although Microsoft's "administrative assistants" may have a new role within their organisation, most administrators prefer the job title of secretary to fancy or meaningless alternatives, as it should in principle reflect vital business and managerial skills.

As organisations become "leaner", employers need to train, develop and manage all their staff effectively, including secretaries and administrators. It is better to invest time and effort in good practice rather than in thinking up new job titles.

Employers have to change their perception of the secretarial role before their talented secretaries seek new jobs in organisations where their skills are valued.

Yours faithfully,
JO GARDINER
(Campaign Manager),
The Industrial Society,
48 Bryanston Square, W1,
February 20.

Scarcely fair

From Dr Paul Atack

Sir, I always enjoy Hilary Finch, but her review of the LSO performance at the Barbican of Bruckner's Fifth Symphony (Arts, February 21) was a little puzzling.

The finale may be many things, but to describe the most monumental symphonic movement ever as "frugal" seems a bit thick. Perhaps it was a spelling mistake?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ATACK,
9 Lancaster Gardens, Ealing, W13.

Home and away

From Mr J. D. Currie

Sir, Regarding a new anthem for the English RFU (letter, February 23), surely Mr McCandlish cannot be unaware of the traditional and time-honoured words to *The Archers'* signature tune (although they are usually sung well after the game). They are:
Dum de dum de dum de dum,
Dum de dum de dum de dum,
etc.

Adoption of the above will give the added advantage of most of the players being able to remember the words to the second verse.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. CURRIE,
47 York Road,
Malton, North Yorkshire,
February 24.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

LORD ILIFFE

Lord Iliffe, newspaper proprietor, died on February 15 aged 88. He was born on January 25, 1908.

LANGTON ILIFFE was born to the roar of a printing press and the smell of fresh newsprint. His grandfather, a Coventry printer, had founded the family fortune by launching himself as a publisher in the last century. His first venture, a magazine called *The Cyclist*, was soon followed by others including *Autocar* and the *Midland Daily Telegraph* — later renamed the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*.

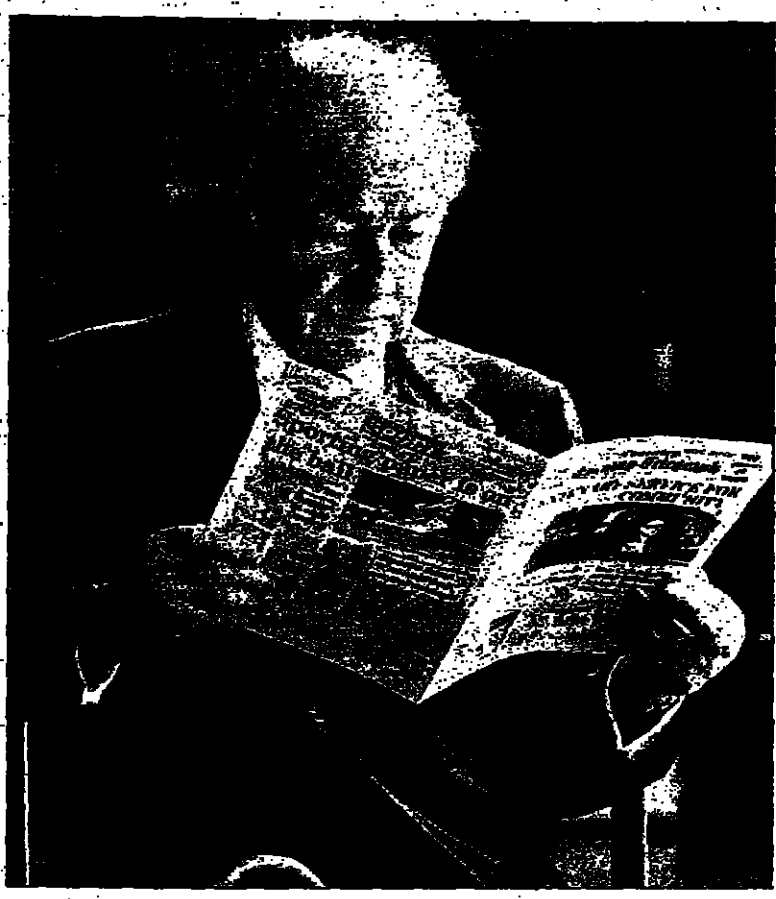
The founder's son (and Langton's father) not only hugely expanded these publishing interests but was knighted and, in 1953, ennobled as the first Lord Iliffe. It was, therefore, a burgeoning business by the time Edward Langton Iliffe was born at Allesley Hall on the outskirts of Coventry. He went to Sherborne School, then after a year at the Sorbonne to Clare College, Cambridge, before joining the family firm.

It had by now become a national organisation. In the early 1920s the Iliffes had teamed up with the Berry brothers (later Lords Camrose and Kemsley) linking their own magazines to the Berry's newspapers in Fleet Street.

Iliffe was commissioned into the RAF Volunteer Reserve in the Second World War and served in Air Intelligence in France. He was mentioned in dispatches for his work on debriefing Allied pilots after operations.

Meanwhile, the profile of the family business was again changing. His father had amicably severed his links with the Berrys before the war, retaining only the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* for a while. In 1942, however, the Iliffes had bought the *Birmingham Daily Post* and *Evening Mail*.

Langton, who succeeded his father as the second Lord Iliffe in 1960, was to serve as vice-chairman of the Birmingham Post and Mail between



1957 and 1974 and as chairman of the Coventry Evening Telegraph, 1957-75. He was also largely instrumental in acquiring the *Cambridge Evening News*, chairing its board, 1959-75.

During the years after his retirement, the family disposed of the Birmingham papers and the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*, while acquiring others in Staffordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex. Its newspaper interests now come under the Yattenden Investment Trust, a holding company.

The 2nd Lord Iliffe did not conform to the buccannery image of newspaper ownership. A quiet, modest and reflective man, impeccably groomed and of great integrity, he made a principle out of never interfering editorially.

On the other hand, he read all his newspapers and took a personal interest in their staffs. At Coventry he began the 21 Club for all those who had worked on the paper for 21 years — at which point, in the classic paternal

manner, they were presented with a clock and invited to an annual dinner. He was a past president of the International Lawn Tennis Club of Great Britain, and at one time owned an 80ft motor yacht. He belonged to the Royal Yacht Squadron.

He also, however, had cultural interests. These tended to centre on history and the arts and were reflected in the keen interest he took in his role as a trustee of Shakespeare's birthplace and in his close involvement with the foundation of Warwick University just outside Coventry.

His chief passion in life was perhaps Basildon Park, the 18th-century house near Pangbourne which he bought in 1952. Lived in between 1941 and 1945 by American airborne troops and then by German prisoners of war, it took him more than two years to make it habitable. But he gradually restored it to its former glory, collecting period furniture and art before transferring it to the National Trust 18 years ago.

While continuing to live in Berkshire, and serving as the county's High Sheriff in 1957, he retained a lifelong loyalty to Coventry, the city in which his forebears had so prospered. His father had given Allesley Hall to the city council, and Langton later added the land around it for a park.

He also bought the sketches made by Graham Sutherland for his tapestry in Coventry Cathedral, and donated these to the city's Herbert Art Gallery. Partly through this, he became a close friend of the artist and was himself painted by him. Meanwhile, Coventry returned the compliment by making him an honorary freeman of the city.

Lord Iliffe is survived by his wife Renee, the daughter of a French sugar planter's family in Mauritius (and a niece of Lady Kemsley) whom he married in 1938. They had no children and the title passes to his nephew Robert Iliffe, now chairman of the Yattenden Investment Trust, who becomes the 3rd Baron.

TIMOTHY MORRIS

Timothy Morris, CBE, newspaper executive, died of cancer on February 17 aged 61. He was born on February 15, 1935.



TIM MORRIS was a leading figure in the world of provincial publishing for more than 30 years. As president of the Newspaper Society, 1984-85, (and a member of its council since 1972) he was in the forefront of the industry's vigorous campaign against the imposition of VAT on cover prices. But his own fieldwork lay in the Midlands where, as chairman of the Birmingham Post and Mail, he won an agreement on the introduction of new technology without the loss of a single day's work through industrial action.

After presiding over the Newspaper Society he went on to become chairman of the Press Association, 1985-86, and was made a director of the Reuters Founders Share Company the following year. Yet he whimsically described himself as a "failed journalist" after the brief period he spent on the editorial floor of the *Birmingham Post* in the 1950s, before switching to the managerial side of the business. Some nine years later, aged 32, he was on the board.

Timothy Denis Morris was born in Leicester, the son of a BBC radio producer, Denis Morris, who was later to become Controller of the old Light Programme. While in charge of the corporation's Midlands region, Morris senior was credited with having spiked the guns of ITV by arranging for the death of the *Ambridge* serial on the night of the new channel's launch.

The young Morris went to Tonbridge, his father's old school, where he soon demonstrated a lifelong aptitude for ball games. A useful scrum-half, he was an even better batsman though not quite in the class of his Tonbridge

contemporary and cricketing role model M. C. Cowdrey.

He completed his National Service in the Navy, being commissioned into the supply branch and being posted to the submarine base at Gosport. Then he read English at Pembroke College, Cambridge, before starting his career at Birmingham in 1958.

Morris's first big breakthrough came in 1970 when he was appointed managing director of the Coventry Evening Telegraph which, like the Birmingham papers, then belonged to the Iliffe family group. He moved back to Birmingham as managing director in 1977, then took over as chairman five years later.

When the Iliffes sold their Birmingham and Coventry papers in 1988 he became a director of their holding company Yattenden Investment Trust — in charge of their remaining newspaper interests: the *Burton Daily Mail*, *Cambridge Evening News*, *Herts and Essex Newspapers* and the *Staffordshire Newsletter*. He was also a director of Heart of England Radio and treasurer of the Commonwealth Press Union.

Tim Morris was deeply involved in Midlands public life, especially the theatrical side of it. He helped to bring the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet to Birmingham, then

served as deputy chairman of the re-christened Birmingham Royal Ballet, as well as being on the ballet board of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He was also at one time chairman of the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre Trust and was closely involved in the theatre's extensive redevelopment. The theatre has dedicated its present season of *Far From the Madding Crowd* to his memory.

Morris was also chairman of Birmingham Civic Society, 1979-83, county commissioner of Warwickshire Scouts, 1974-77, a Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands from 1975, a former director of the West Midlands Regional Authority and a former president of Coventry Chamber of Commerce.

His continuing interest in sport was reflected by his 21 years on the committee of Warwickshire County Cricket Club. At one time he and his wife regularly attended Coventry City FC's matches at Highfield Road.

An energetic and determined man who threw himself into everything he did with great enthusiasm, Morris played golf in what remained of his spare time or poured over his collections of stamps and P.G. Wodehouse first editions. His passion for philately was well known to colleagues who were briefed before travelling overseas on what "first day covers" to procure for him.

Tim Morris married his wife Caroline Wynn, the girl who had lived next door to his boyhood home in Bromsgrove, in 1958. She frequently accompanied him on his travels, including tours by the Birmingham Royal Ballet. She survives him, together with their son and daughter and both his parents.

Tim Morris died just two days after the 2nd Lord Iliffe, with whose companies he had remained throughout his career.

SIR RALPH BATEMAN

Sir Ralph Bateman, industrialist and president of the Confederation of British Industry, 1974-76, died on January 25 aged 85. He was born on May 15, 1910.

RALPH BATEMAN was president of the Confederation of British Industry during what was probably the most threatening period for the private sector since the Second World War.

He took up office in May 1974 — just a few weeks after Denis Healey's first Budget had delivered what looked like a final blow to manufacturing companies which were already being squeezed by soaring inflation, price controls, the aftermath of the three-day week, and serious liquidity problems. In the City of London, the secondary banking crisis was at its most dangerous point and share prices were collapsing.

With Tony Benn breathing fire at the Department of Industry, the possibility that capitalism in the UK might be in terminal decline was seriously discussed. Bateman

spoke out powerfully and often against the direction of government policy, using much stronger language than the country had grown used to from its industrial leaders.

"There are those who would say that this would place the CBI squarely in the political field," he declared. "My answer to them is that employers have been drawn into the political arena against their wishes. I do not feel that we should stand idle in the face of policies and actions which in my opinion endanger the whole economy and the prosperity of our people."

The campaign had an impact. Healey's second Budget, in November of that year, was specifically aimed at reviving company profits by easing price controls, and at boosting corporate liquidity by way of allowing tax relief on stock appreciation.

Nothing in his previous career had prepared Bateman for this vigorous public role. Born in Rochdale, Ralph Melton Bateman was educated at Epsom College and University College, Oxford, and he spent his whole working life at the



Turner & Newall Group, which he joined in 1931. He was appointed to the board in 1957, and became chairman of the Manchester-based group ten years later.

Softly spoken and courteous, he had a precise, brisk manner and managed his time effectively. Under his leadership the company largely recovered from the blow of losing its Rhodesian assets during the period of sanctions: the scale of the problems

which arose from its asbestos products was not to emerge until later.

Bateman was something of an outsider when, in his last few years at T & N, he emerged at the top of the CBI. He had played little part in its affairs until then and he was the first president to come from a company based outside London.

The organisation badly needed a fresh approach. It had been compromised by the way it had identified itself with the corporatist policies of Edward Heath's Conservative administration. Campbell Adamson, its director-general, had made a notorious gaffe during the February election, when he appeared to suggest that Heath's industrial relations strategy should be scrapped. Important sections of its membership expressed disquiet, and one large company, GKN, notably resigned.

Under its new president and guided by the political nous of his colleague Lord Watkinson, the CBI recovered its poise in the face of the new enemy. It led the charge against Labour's industrial policy, it

helped to shape the debate about the very real threats to the company sector, and it played an active part in supporting the "yes" vote in the referendum on Britain's membership of the European Community in 1975.

Bateman's differences with the Labour Government were not just ideological. He regarded Tony Benn as a menace, and told Harold Wilson at a private meeting at Chequers that there was no hope of any understanding between Government and the CBI while Benn remained Secretary of State for Industry. The feeling was reciprocated. After one meeting, Benn noted cattily in his *Diaries* that Bateman looked "like a Madame Tussaud's industrialist of 1910 vintage". The department's recommendation for Bateman's knighthood in 1975 went directly to No 10, rather than via his Secretary of State, for fear that he might stand in its way.

The final months of his period in office, which ended in the spring of 1976, were more tranquil. But the CBI had passed a turning point. In contrast to its cautious contacts with the Conservative Opposition in the mid-1960s, it now saw itself as the voice of private enterprise. As such, it was ready to throw its weight behind the new ideas of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party.

Outside his business life, Bateman had a long association with Ashridge Management College, and was chairman of its governing body for some years. He was active in the development of the private University of Buckingham, as well as in a number of other universities. Yet his most cherished role was at the centre of his own large and warm-spirited family.

Ralph Bateman is survived by his wife Yvonne, whom he married in 1935, and by two sons and two daughters.

A photograph accompanying the obituary of Millicent Wooller yesterday was, in fact, that of Reginald Collin, a former director of Bafix. We much regret the error.

EDWARD ADAMSON

Edward Adamson, art therapist, died on February 3 aged 84. He was born on May 31, 1911.



CONVINCED of the connection between creativity and healing, Edward Adamson was one of the first people to use art therapy for the cure of the mentally disturbed. A painter in his own right who exhibited his work in both London and Paris, he was also art director at Netherne Hospital for many years. He was the founder chairman of the British Association of Art Therapists.

Edward Adamson developed his interest in using art to improve healthcare from an early age. Having studied at Beckenham and Bromley Art School (now Ravensbourne), he took evening classes in physiotherapy while he earned his living working in his father's factory. During the Second World War he enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps and on demobilisation offered to work voluntarily for the Red Cross.

For six months he taught art to ex-soldiers suffering from TB who needed an occupation during their long months of recuperation. The Second World War instigated a shift in attitudes towards healthcare — a change with was to result in the inauguration of the NHS in 1948 and later, in 1959, the passing of the Mental Health Act. But in the years immediately after the war Victorian policies were still extant: mentally ill patients were incarcerated in isolated fortresses and subjected to the mass application of such standardised treatments as the removal of symptoms through drugs, electric shocks and brain surgery.

To Adamson, Netherne Hospital seemed just such a

place. But he was invited to join the staff as an artist, and it was here that he began his innovative work. Using old wallpaper, the backs of posters, even lavatory paper, to work on, patients were encouraged to express visually their inner thoughts and feelings. The work which emerged was often painfully powerful. What Adamson did, he said, was "less a question of treatment than of developing latent creative possibilities".

As confidence in the recuperative power of art grew and facilities were extended to include pottery, woodwork and sculpture studios, the authorities increasingly sought Adamson's advice on the hospital environment. The long brown-tiled corridors were painted and students

from the Royal College of Art hung their canvases on the walls. Patients' work was also exhibited in a hospital gallery to which doctors and nurses would often refer in search of greater insights into their charges.

Adamson retired in 1971 at the age of 60, but he still kept in touch with Netherne and when he heard that the hospital was about to close he set up a charity trust, The Adamson Collection, to prevent patients' work from being dispersed. Part of this collection is currently housed in a barn on the Rothschild estate at Ashton, where visitors from all over the world come to see it. But a permanent base for it is now being sought.

Edward Adamson was a bachelor.

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ON THIS DAY

February 27, 1932

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new work for a tiger

A RACING MOTORIST'S QUEST

Mr. G.E.T. Eyston, who advertised for a large Bengal tiger (man-eater preferred) in the "Personal" advertisement column of *The Times* yesterday, received offers of 10 tigers during the day. The description given by one applicant is so promising that Mr. Eyston is hopeful that the animal offered will suit his requirements. If the price is right. But he has yet to secure himself by a personal inspection that the tiger is "as large and as savage as possible." Unless the tiger possesses these qualifications he will be disappointed. It will be in the animal's favour if it has very clear stripes.

Exactly what Mr. Eyston proposes to do with his tiger is at present a secret. Mr. Eyston is a racing motorist, and the head of an engineering firm which specialises in the making of superchargers, and his contemplated experiment has something to do with motor-cars or motorbikes. From a safe position he will study the tiger in movement in the hope that the play of its muscles as it leaps and gambols may illuminate a problem in mechanics. "The tiger fulfils the particular requirements of power and other factors that we have in mind," he said yesterday. "The study of birds contributed to the development

of certain aspects of aviation, and we want to learn mechanics in the same way from the tiger." The more tigerish the animal turns out to be the better, hence Mr. Eyston's insistence on a really savage tiger. "We do not want one of those toothless specimens which are ending their days in quiet retirement in a zoo."

The tiger is offered a comfortable home for the next few months in a paddock, adequately fenced, somewhere in North London. However ferocious the animal may be, nothing but kindness will be shown to it in return, and it will live under conditions as natural as North London can provide. Slow-motion films will be

made of the tiger in movement, and it is in the interests of clear photography that its stripes are required to be particularly vivid.

Mr. Eyston, who is the holder of the "baby" car speed record of 118 miles an hour, left Croydon by air for Paris yesterday, accompanied by Mr. A. Denly, the motor-cyclist. In the absence of Mr. Eyston, who has a severe cold, Mr. Denly will attempt to break the world long-distance record at the Montlhéry track. He will start this morning and continue until Tuesday morning. Mr. Eyston stated yesterday that his car was capable of a speed of 125 miles an hour, but he should not be going at that speed for very long because of the question of endurance. He expected to travel at over 100 miles an hour, however, for two days, perhaps longer, and the test would continue throughout the night, providing that the weather conditions were suitable. Mr. Denly, who some two years ago held about 50 world motor-cycling records and was an extremely good driver, would take turns with him in driving. The car they would use was a four-litre straight-eight.

SIR MALCOLM CAMPBELL

Michael Hatfield introduces a two-page report on the progress of the controversial training and enterprise councils

Training for a tough new game

The business-led training and enterprise councils (Tecs), which have encountered considerable scepticism over their financial accountability and performance since their inception five years ago, entered the new year in the knowledge that it could be the most critical in their history.

Some of the scepticism has arguably been misplaced or exaggerated; but the Tecs this year are operating against a background of deep financial cuts in the Training for Work programme as a result of the Budget, although overall Kenneth Clark, the Chancellor, did increase their spending by 5 per cent from £1.16 billion to £1.173 billion, with increases in Youth Training and the Modern Apprenticeship scheme.

Chris Humphries, the Tec national council's director of policy and strategy, believes the budget to be positive, and although Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, underpinned Tec optimism by saying that the rise "was a significant mark of the Government's confidence in the Tecs", there are enough issues percolating into the Tec agenda to stifle any thoughts of complacency.

The latest criticism came last week in a report by the all-party Commons Employment Select Committee, which said that Tecs had made only a "modest" contribution to the improvement of the system of training for the unemployed, and to the promotion of economic regeneration and enterprise. The committee said their impact on training had been less than was hoped for, and called for radical changes to the business-dominated boards that run Tecs in England and Wales.

The Association of Chambers of

Commerce has already thrown what has been described as a "small hand grenade into the training and enterprise pool" by suggesting that all interested parties (including themselves and the Tecs) should dissolve and reform into a single business support organisation; and the Tec national council is braced to fight the last round in the long battle with the Government over bureaucratic controls, after the report of the Cabinet Office's efficiency scrutiny of Tecs.

Ministers are thought in principle to have accepted the report, which is expected to lift many of the Tecs' administrative burdens. These have long been a running sore in relations between the Tecs and Government. What is at stake for the Tecs, however, is the timing and implementation of the recommendations.

Such matters may be time-consuming but will not divert the national council from a deliberate plan to seize the high ground in education and training with the publication of five new major policy documents, which are expected to surface in May.

Though the Tec national council is keeping its proposals under wraps for the moment, what it appears to be asking for is nothing less than a radical shake-up of education and training, challenging the financial and structural orthodoxies that determine policy.

The national council, it would appear, is not satisfied to stand on what it believes to be its creditable record, despite its critics, of delivering programmes which create more qualifications and more jobs for less than half the previous cost. More than 400,000 young people were trained through the Tec Youth Training Programme in 1994-95. This



Chris Humphries



An employee at Rover on the receiving end of a Modern Apprenticeship, which was a Tecs initiative

meant that eight out of ten of those who completed YT got jobs or entered full-time education. Of those who completed YT, 74 per cent got marketable qualifications.

The radical noises that are emanating from Westminster Tower, the headquarters of the Tec national council, instead of adopting a reactive posture to government policy, is becoming more pro-active, according to Mr Humphries.

Though it was the initiative of the Tecs that led to the introduction of Training at Work and the Modern Apprenticeship initiative, in the last few months the national council has been working on policies which could, if adopted by Government, fundamentally change the education and training of 14 to 19-year-olds, lifetime learning, and the training of the adult unemployed.

Publication of the policy documents has been deliberately timed. The national council wants to engage with all political parties, not just the

Government, at a time when the parties get down to the serious business of preparing their general election manifestos.

The timing is even better because Gillian Shephard announced last week the setting up of the most wide-ranging review of higher education for a generation, under Sir Ron Dearing.

"What we want to create is a national debate on the future of education and training, and we want to be influential," says Mr Humphries. The Tecs are now more confident of their future under a possible Labour government since assurances were given by opposition spokesmen that they would have a role to play. There is also regular contact with the TUC, though there are rumblings among the trade unions that some Tecs boards still do not have trade union representation.

The drive behind the need to shake up education and training is built upon the premise that, for 14 to 19-year-olds, the system is inadequately

focused on the future employability of young people on their leaving school and on their capacity for continuous learning afterwards.

The policy document is likely to argue for a shake-up in funding and structure. To illustrate the inadequacies of established structures he points to the distinction between academic and vocational qualifications; some 30 per cent of children leave school with A-levels, and 70 per cent with GNVQs. He believes not only that the distinction is far too rigid, but also that there should be a more level playing field.

The policy documents are also expected to challenge the assumptions of the higher education and university establishments that colleges set the courses and curricula, rather than gearing their educational provision to client demand. Moreover, the documents are likely to call for a change in public funding in which universality is the guiding principle, and demand more contributions from employers.

Sweet taste of success

More than 50 industry training organisations, covering 85 per cent of the UK workforce, are responsible for setting the framework for the Government's Modern Apprenticeship initiative. Last week the Hotel and Catering Training Company (HCTC) received a special National Training Award (NTA) from Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, as the best of them.

The framework of the HCTC was seen as a significant achievement for an industry that has a massive turnover but has long suffered from an unqualified or under-qualified workforce.

The hotel and catering industry employs two million people and it is forecast to grow by some 380,000 by the year 2000. In order to meet its responsibilities the industry recognises that good training is essential, especially for school-leavers.

The training framework embraces every sector of the industry and can be applied to organisations of any size. To achieve this within only seven months, the HCTC and its partners had to combine a realistic appraisal of what was possible, with a clear vision of what was needed.

The framework, approved just over a year ago, allows five main routes to completion, each applying to a different sector of the industry: chef, accommodation, restaurant, pub and fast food. Each route contains options and specialisations in three main phases. Such a framework can be adopted by small, medium or large employers alike, and

can be accessed whatever the sector or occupation involved. Its focus is on flexibility and partnership to enable wide-spread but high-quality participation.

The special NTA Modern Apprenticeship award for local schemes implementation was won by Rover Group and its partners — Birmingham Tec and the Engineering Training Authority. The award was in recognition of the fact that the group has been keen to champion modern apprenticeships as the first tangible manifestation of a new NVQ-centred apprenticeship approach. The company employed 38 apprentices in 1994, and recruited a further 85 young people in September last year.

Rover's flexible programme design allows students to follow a predominantly work-based route to future employment within the industry. A distinctive feature in the company's approach has been to break the mould of the traditional

three-route model of post-16 progression: "academic" (A levels followed by higher education), "vocational education" and "work-based training".

Instead, Rover's scheme offers its trainees the same opportunity to progress to a university degree as A level, and within the same timescale. It incorporates the same vocational education courses as those at a college of further education, again on a similar timescale.

Not only does the student receive a salary throughout the learning programme, but he or she is well placed to take advantage of employment opportunities on completion.

The industry suffers from an under-qualified workforce

Take the chance to put the future at your feet

As a teenager, Sol Campbell was passionate about football. Fortunately, he was also good at it and won a place on the youth training programme at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

Today, aged 21, Campbell is a regular player in the Spurs first team and has been invited to train with the England full international squad. He probably owes that achievement to the youth training programme, courtesy of the Footballers' Further Education and Vocational Training Society, which gave him a qualification — an NVQ Level II in leisure and recreation — as well as the connections and training to make it to the top.

Youth training is for youngsters with special training needs — those with learning difficulties or those who do not want to follow the academic route to university — and it is available as of right to all young people aged 16 and 17 leaving school.

It enables trainees to obtain work-based training with local employers and to gain marketable qualifications in the process. Many young lads opt for the football training, but not many are chosen, according to Doug Norris, the director of operations at North London Training and Enterprise Council, which organises training in conjunction with providers.

There are other options which may be less glamorous but will lead to a job — for example, motor vehicle repair and information technology. North London Tec has other success stories: a young man who did badly at school but succeeded at a City & Guilds course in video production and is now a trainee editor with an advertising agency, travelling abroad and working on video promotion films; and another who achieved a City & Guilds horticulture qualification and has now been recruited by Operation Raleigh to help with building projects in the developing world.

In the academic year 1994-95 more than 400,000 young people were training on programmes. The results speak for themselves: eight out of ten of those completing training get jobs and three quarters achieve qualifications.

Sol Campbell is just one example of a youngster benefiting from youth training, says Lucy Hodges



On the ball: Sol Campbell achieved an NVQ qualification

Introduced in the 1970s by a Labour Government in response to rising youth unemployment, youth training has evolved. Nowadays youngsters are given a "youth credit" to "spend" on the training of their choice which carries a sum of money, reflecting roughly what the training costs. The idea is that it should help to motivate them.

The London Tecs have teamed up to create a network enabling young people to train anywhere within the Greater London area. "It has given them the chance to look after themselves," says Gwyneth Flower, chief executive of Central London Tec. "Before that people felt they

were being slotted into courses, so the dropout rate was high. Now it's much better because the young people get a 'credit card' embossed with the value of the training. If they see £2,500 to £5,000-worth of training, that means something. It shows someone is prepared to invest that amount of money in them."

The other way in which youth training has changed is that most youngsters now emerge with a qualification, such as an NVQ level One, Two or Three. The old Youth Opportunities Programme was criticised for providing employers with cheap labour, according to Doug Norris.

"Looking at it now, it's a lot better," he says. "Every kid has got to pay money for a proper qualification and there's a real push by Tecs to monitor that. The standard of monitoring and inspection that exists now is much more rigorous."

Many young people are taken on by the employers who help to pay for the training. These recruits are paid a wage while in training. All other trainees receive an allowance which varies by age — £40 a week at age 16, rising to £45 at 17.

Many of the training recruits are given remedial help with mathematics and English. At the other end of the spectrum some go on to achieve degrees. Two trainees in Manchester, for example, who had been taken on by Rhône Poulenc, the chemical company, have just received BScs in chemistry. "They didn't want to stay on in education," says Richard Guy, the chief executive of Manchester Tec. "But they responded to a work-based process."

Young people can find employers themselves, or can contact their local careers centre, which will find them a training place or a job. Over the past three years local careers services have been put out to tender. Today many careers services are run jointly by the local Tec together with local partners, such as the local authority or private companies. The purpose of the change has been to ensure that careers guidance is tailored to local needs and responds to changes in the marketplace.

All Tecs want to preach the message that the vocational route is as good and as worthy of respect as the academic route promoted by schools and higher education.

To this end the Humber-side Tec underpinned its youth credit scheme by introducing a new "routes" programme into all secondary schools in the area. This gives information to youngsters about all the options open to them — NVQs, GNVQs and A levels. It enables teenagers to see the full range of qualifications and courses available and to appreciate that the standards are being set by industry for industry.

Considering modern apprenticeships in engineering? Talk to the Authority.

If you're an employer and considering the future of your engineering business, you should be talking to the Engineering Training Authority — EnTra.

EnTra led the development of Modern Apprenticeships in Engineering and now works closely with industry promoting their use.

As the needs of every business are different, EnTra's Modern Apprenticeships are

extremely flexible. They ensure that young people

gain high quality skills that are of direct relevance to the future development of your business.

Whatever your reasons for considering Modern Apprenticeships in Engineering, whether you're an employer, a parent, a teacher, or a young person with ambition — talk to EnTra and discover how we can help you.

Call us today on this Lo-Call number.

0345 581 207



Engineering Training Authority
Vector House, 41 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 1HS



Verdict: it's brilliant



Thoroughly modern apprentice: Melissa Attwater didn't want to start her career in debt

MELISSA ATTWATER

WHEN 20-year-old Melissa Attwater, who had a keen interest in engineering, was at school she was told that she would do her A levels and go to university, Michael Hatfield writes.

Melissa, however, had other ideas. Though she passed four A levels she did not want to go to university "because I didn't want to start my career in debt". Instead, she took up a Modern Apprenticeship scheme with Kawasaki Precision Machinery in Plymouth and is now training as a mechanical technician, earning £130 a week. She will spend another three years in different sections of the com-

pany to attain an NVQ Level 4, and then work in research and development.

If she succeeds in acquiring the Level 4 the company will fund her university education.

Steve Glover, customer operations manager of the company, said: "The company and the training provider have responsibility for the programme, which is focused on specific goals, enables the company to produce apprentices fully skilled to NVQ Level 3 within three years instead of the previous four, and provides training which suits the company. We will now devote a fourth year to

specialisation and contribution towards NVQ Level 4."

For Melissa, her Modern Apprenticeship means: "I go to college once a week and love that because it mixes both the classroom theoretical side and the practical side. Once I have done my certificate the company say they will put me through university, if that is best for both of us. My employer sees us as the future of the company."

"There are so many opportunities at the end of training that it makes me wonder sometimes why everybody isn't doing a Modern Apprenticeship. It has been brilliant. I have no regrets."

AUSTIN REYNOLDS

AUSTIN REYNOLDS, aged 18, says that being employed and earning a regular wage mean that he has the freedom to continue playing football while helping his future prospects.

It is an achievement that he finds the time. Employed as a Modern Apprentice by Telford Extrusions, a polymer extrusions company,

Austin is undertaking Btec academic courses up to HNC level and, at his workplace, two NVQs up to Level 3 in polymer processing and engineering, as well as NVQ Level 1 and 2 in extrusion operations.

Austin's was the first Modern Apprenticeship offered by the company, though others have since joined him.

Now in his second year, Austin is developing an industry-wide range of practical skills.

"I see Modern Apprenticeships as the springboard to a successful career," he says.

With the help of the Shropshire Tec, the company is currently working towards an Investors in People award.

Return of the apprentice

Michael
Hatfield

checks up on
a government
initiative

There are growing signs, after a somewhat lacklustre start, that the Modern Apprenticeship initiative, launched nationally last September following a year-long pilot scheme, is beginning to capture the imagination of employers and young people.

Optimism for the future success of the scheme, which combines the industry knowledge of the country's Industry Training Organisations (ITOs) and the local delivery skills of the Tec, is expressed by James Paice, Education and Employment Minister, Chris Humphries, policy director of the Tec, and Andy Powell, chief executive of the National Council of Industry Training Organisations (NCITO).

Latest figures show that some 15,000 young people have signed up for Modern Apprenticeships, a firm foundation for meeting the 30,000 target by the end of March, though whether it will be met remains to be seen. The target for succeeding years is 60,000 annually.

The Modern Apprenticeship scheme is the Government's acknowledged linchpin to encourage young people seeking high-level training. That is why it is putting in £100 million of extra money in the coming financial year. To date the employer-owned ITOs have set up more than 50 national frameworks in sectors from accountancy to wool textiles.

Mr Paice says: "Young people are already recognising that these new-style apprenticeships offer an exciting and job-relevant training option. Employers are also telling us that this is the way forward into the 21st century."

The reason for this, according to Mr Powell, is that: "Modern Apprenticeships



Claire Wheeler, aged 18, working at Rank Xerox towards her Modern Apprenticeship

provide high quality training developed in response to employers' needs. This could not have happened without a national network of employer-owned ITOs covering 85 per cent of the UK workforce."

Mr Humphries puts the slow beginning down to the fact that it took time to get the frameworks in place and also to get employers, who are resistant to getting themselves involved in legalistic bureaucracy in starting apprenticeships, on board. The resistance is becoming less marked, however, because the evidence coming from companies embarking upon Modern Apprenticeships is encouraging.

Modern Apprenticeships provide young people with a balance between the world of work, where they can acquire core skills, experience and discipline, and continuing education and qualifications. They are designed to meet the



James Paice: "exciting"

requirements set by industry, at national and local level, and satisfy the specific needs of employers.

Young people must have the ability to gain high-level skills and qualifications in their chosen industry, and train to achieve at least National Vocational

Qualification Level 3. They can progress to professional Levels 4 and 5, or go on to university and higher education.

Companies take on Modern Apprentices as full-time employees and pay the wage for the job. Training credits, which can be worth up to £7,000, depending on the occupation chosen and the Level of NVQ, contribute towards the employer's cost and there is no cost to the young person.

Independent sources confirm the official faith in Modern Apprenticeships. A study undertaken by Incomes Data Services published at the beginning of the year showed that the scheme was being supported by employers who have not been involved in previous government training initiatives.

The IDS evidence backs up an earlier survey by Ernst & Young, commissioned by the Department for Education

"Employers are telling us this is the way forward into the 21st century"

and Employment, which found that 60 per cent of employers would recognise Modern Apprenticeships as other employers in their sector. Rob Wye, who is in charge of the scheme at the department, says: "From what I hear, it is a concept that appeals to young people and their parents."

The Tec has found that the response has been particularly good in the North West, the North East and the Midlands, but disappointing so far in London.

Eunice Craig, the Modern Apprenticeships co-ordinator for Tyneside Tec, which sent mailshots to 10,000 young people last August, says: "We have been getting a tremendous response from young people by advertising positions in the local newspaper."

She says the Tec received 150 calls from young people in response to an advertisement for four vacancies, and has set a March target of 750, with 274 employers making a commitment to take on apprentices. One employer was so impressed by the calibre of young people responding that he took on three instead of one.

In the Midlands, Dudley Tec, which is offering Modern Apprenticeship modules in 15 industrial and commercial sectors, has already placed 120 out of the total year's target of 286 since September.

Pam Preston, training and quality development manager, says: "Our training suppliers are very positive. They have contracts with employers and as this stage we are selling the scheme to them. We will use the enthusiasm of these suppliers, employers and young people to sell the scheme by word of mouth. But we feel that we must get that firm foundation first."

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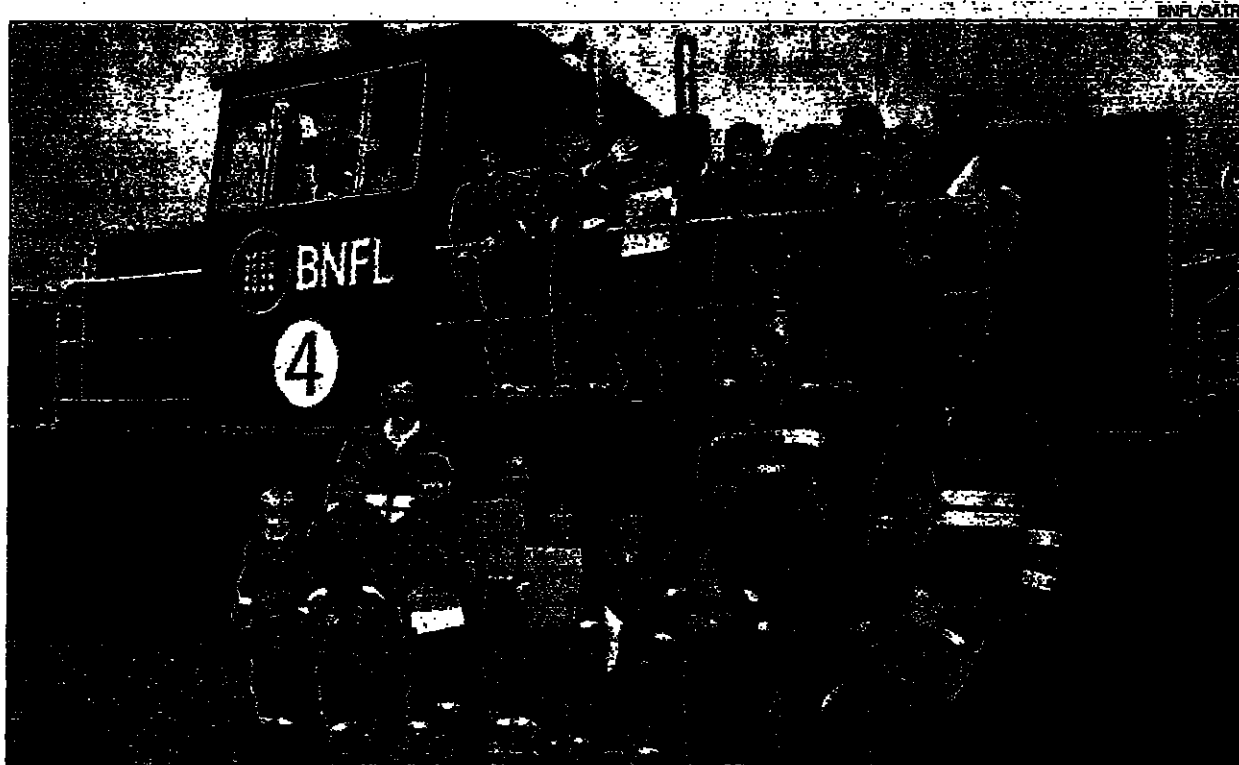
last year...

16,229 training enquiries

2,966 NVQs achieved

1,469 jobs

CENTEC Central London Training and Enterprise Council



Pupils from Lamplugh School's Young Engineers Club at Sellafield. Tec help youngsters to gain useful skills

The charge that teachers are hopelessly ignorant of commerce and industry carries less resonance nowadays, since many members of the profession taste the world of work through placement services run by local training and enterprise councils (TECs).

Every year, as many as one in ten primary and secondary school teachers spends up to a week in the workplace, as part of the general effort by Tec to forge links between schools and industry, to ensure that youngsters have the skills necessary to earn a living when they leave full-time education.

In Cumbria, for example, more than 350 teachers a year spend time finding out what it is like to work for British Nuclear Fuels, for instance, or Everton Football Club.

"We are trying to focus the effort on head teachers," says Steve Palmer, chief executive of Cumbria Tec. "We want to ensure that the experience has some impact on the curriculum."

One project in Carmarthen involves teachers on placement being sent by West Wales Tec to the Carmarthen Journal, where their task is to produce a newspaper. Meanwhile, another group of teachers is placed with local companies and charged with gathering stories to be used in the paper.

All Tec-run education business partnerships, the aim of which is to organise collaboration between schools, colleges and companies, and to co-ordinate activities for children

A shopfloor shock for Sir

Lucy Hodges on teaching teachers
about industry, pupils about work

of differing ages. Each partnership—there are now more than 120 of them—includes representatives from education, business and the local community.

Training and enterprise councils also run the successful Young Enterprise schemes in schools, whereby pupils are divided into business teams, sell a product and can win awards. They also organise work-experience schemes for pupils, which appear to be much appreciated by pupils and employers alike. In Cumbria, 70 per cent of pupils questioned in a survey cited work experience as the school activity which had most bearing on their futures.

Tec work closely with further education colleges to make sure that both are tailoring their strategic plans to meet local labour market needs.

Tec also set up educational compacts between local educational establishments and employers, which aim to help industry to influence education and training, and to help to motivate young people.

Pupils agree to meet personal goals concerning attendance, behaviour and minimum scores, while employers provide a range of training which, if the pupils' targets are met, may lead to jobs. More than 10,000 employers, 180,000 young people, and 800 schools are involved in compacts around the country.

Devon and Cornwall Tec is interested in creating a culture of lifelong learning from primary school through to university and beyond. To this end, it is trying to encourage "employability" skills even at primary schools, where children working on a project on bridges, for instance, will be introduced to concepts such as hitting targets, meeting deadlines and teamwork. "These things have not been explicit before," says Dr Chris Roberts, the Tec's education officer. "Our purpose is to make them more so."

Manchester Tec ran a £50,000 experiment last year at eight schools in Salford to introduce NVQs, as well as

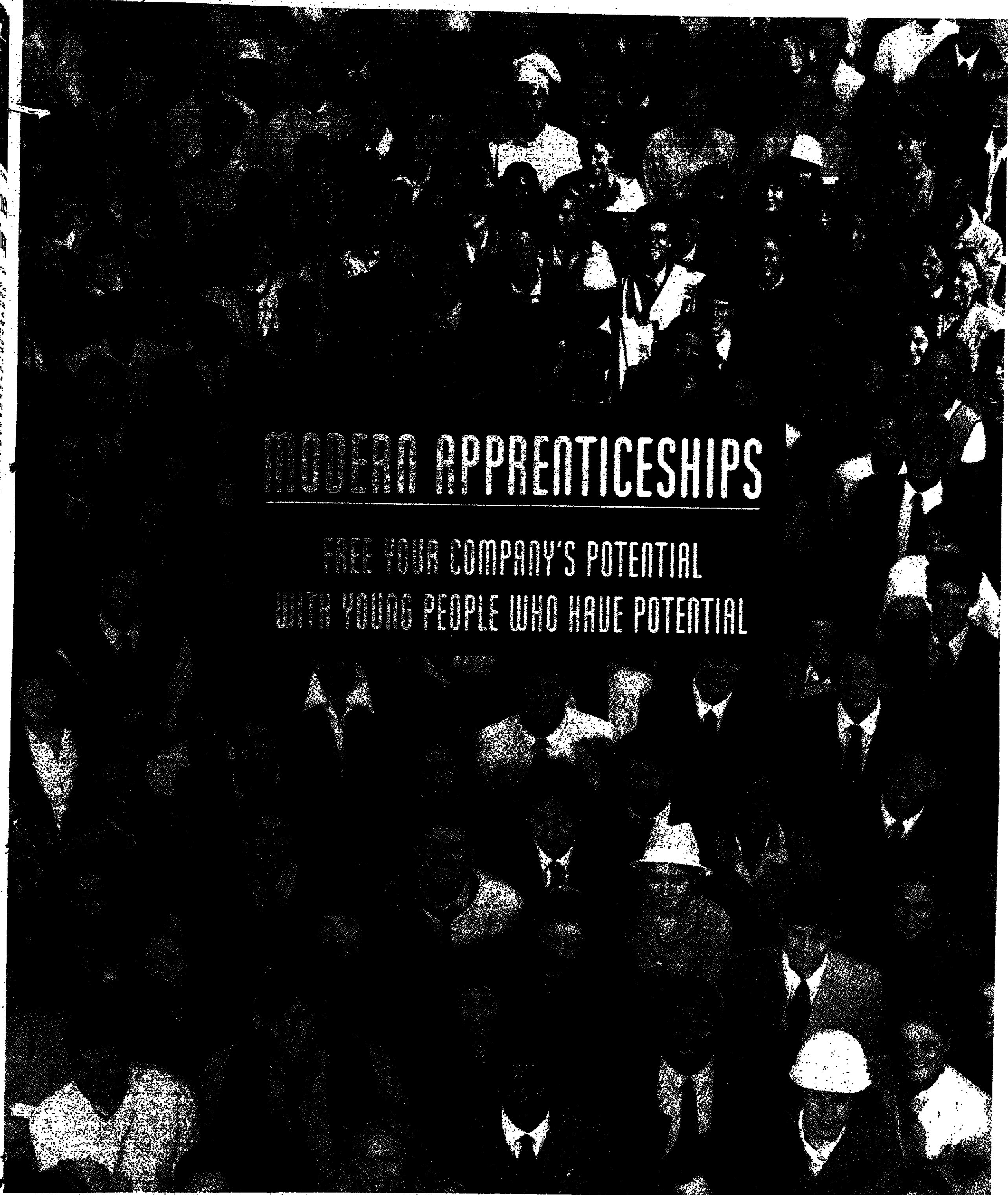
GCSEs, to pupils. The idea, according to the Tec's chief executive, Richard Guy, was that disaffected fifth-formers could be helped to gain a better attitude through work-based learning. Thus pupils could choose NVQ courses in hotel and catering, for instance, and spend one day a week studying that outside school.

The scheme has proved both popular and effective, says Mr Guy. The question remaining is how it might be extended for the benefit of all pupils wanting to take part.

More school-industry links are fostered by companies themselves through Business in the Community, which serves as the conscience of British business and is part of the Prince's Trust. For example, as part of a graduate training programme, Ford engineers undertake 12-week assignments working with schools. The aim is to inspire young people to consider a career in science, technology and engineering.

The Toyota Fund has provided more than £600,000 to date for classroom projects on science and technology linked to local businesses. And British Aerospace has set up a Young Engineers Club at its training centre, so that youngsters can make things using a range of hand tools, machining and equipment. Another scheme run by the international bank SBC Warburg involves bank employees being sent to Depford Green school in Salford to encourage the children to raise their sights and do well academically.





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Postcode	Telephone	Business Sector	B/M/S/2

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Blackburn goalkeeper heads team of expensive underachievers in ITF

No bouquets as Flowers proves surprise bloomer

We are all blessed with the benefit of hindsight: if only we could look into the future with the same clarity of vision. At the start of the season, more than 200,000 trusting souls made their selections for Interactive Team Football (ITF). There was much to ponder for the ITF managers as their £35 million budget burned holes in their pockets; but, if they had known then what they know now, how different their teams might have been.

Top of the list of expensive disasters comes Tim Flowers of Blackburn Rovers. Last August, he seemed worth every penny of the £5 million price tag; since then, his team has conceded 31 goals and he has registered minus four points. Imagine, then, if you had put in front of him a defensive line-up of Graeme Le Saux (£4.5 million and +3 points), Peter Atherton (£2.5 million and -12 points), Ian Pearce (£3.5 million and 3 points) and Des Walker (£2.5 million and -3 points).

With Le Saux's season cut short by injury, Blackburn having a miserable start to the season and Sheffield Wednesday struggling at the lower end of the FA Carling Premiership, the pre-season forecasts are looking a little shaky.

Enter the midfield players. Jason Wilcox cost a hefty £5 million, but has spent most of the season in the treatment room earning only four points. Andy Hinchcliffe, of Everton, is another £5 million man who has underachieved in scoring 21 points from his endeavours, but he can always console himself with Peter Beagrie's record - £3 million spent has brought his supporters only +3 points. As for Moore, of Middlesbrough, he cost £2 million and yet to score a point.

When it comes to the strikers, there are more than enough white elephants to choose from. Top of the list comes Chris Sutton, another Blackburn unfortunate. Costing an impressive £7 million, he has scored a less-than-impressive +7 points, an



achievement that has seen him dropped from many an ITF team. Duncan Ferguson cost £6 million, but, for reasons best glossed over, has managed to earn only +18 points in Everton colours.

In all, the 11 loss-leaders would have set you back £46 million, if the rules allowed, and earned just 38 points, with each point costing £1.2 million. All without a manager - but a manager of a team like that would surely have been dispensed with long ago.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that

allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, but also you are matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Ally Pickering, of Coventry City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £7 million on Andy Cole - but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Kevin Kickers continuing to hold on from a pack of hungry pursuers, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding *Interactive Team Football* should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Flowers, the Blackburn goalkeeper, has not enjoyed the best of luck this season, Rovers unable to produce the form that made them champions

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF
All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED		POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	4pts	Goalkeeper	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Concedes goal	1pt
Scores goal	3pts	Full back/Central defender	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Concedes goal	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	All players	3pts
Scores goal	3pts	Sent off	3pts
Midfield player	1pt		
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts		
Scores goal	2pts		

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF
Call 0891 333 331

Only transfers made by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your own eight-digit PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 9am on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday, from 9am on Sunday to 11pm on Sunday and from 9am on Monday until 11pm on Monday. It is closed on public holidays. The line is also closed at 3pm on the day of the match (ie, matches and pre-play the following day at 3pm).

You may make up to two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must call a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your net transfer would result in an overpayment) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	Club	Value
21506	L. Datch	Coventry	£1.5m
51607	T. Jones	Coventry	£2.0m
51656	J. Joachim	A Villa	£2.0m

Code	Player	Club	Value
40410	J. Molloy	Liverpool	£1.5m
41404	M. Allen	West Ham	£2.0m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Keweenaw Kickers	(M. L. Jones)	513
2	Goths Gods 65	(M. B. Gohli)	511
3	Teddy Five	(M. B. Bare)	501
4	Stevens Lions 6	(S. Brewer)	481
5	Nobby One	(A. Brown)	478
6	Sharon's Side	(M. D. C. Conway)	478
7	Layfons Lions	(M. R. Layton)	477
8	Short And Stubbs	(K. Booth)	472
9	Fair Fair Flapster	(G. Woodward)	471
10	Jessica Darlings 4	(M. A. Nadinson)	470
11	Apollis 2	(S. Lazard)	468
12	Draytons Drabblers	(A. J. Philcox)	467
13	Nobby Nat	(A. Brown)	466
14	Estuary	(M. P. Giles)	466
15	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K. Patel)	466
16	Torrey Cockles XI	(M. P. Johnson)	465
17	Jenny Boys Four	(L. M. Jones)	464
18	Burnell United	(R. Barnham)	463
19	Kisspurs Five	(E. Kirby)	463
20	Stevens Lions 5	(S. Brewer)	462
21	Stevens Lions 1	(S. Brewer)	461
22	Shore Wolves	(K. Booth)	460
23	The Good Bad & Ugly	(P. Sutton)	458
24	Rosies Supers	(P. Turner)	457
25	Turners Earners	(K. Booth)	457
26	Physco And Smithers	(P. Sander)	457
27	Fergies Five	(M. J. Duvvian)	457
28	Nirvana FC	(J. Ward)	454
29	Langton Longshots	(S. Brewer)	454
30	Stevens Lions 2	(B. Evans)	453
31	Commuting Eleven	(M. Persich)	452
32	Percys Progress	(J. Buckle)	451
33	Warren Wizards	(N. Brewer)	450
34	Nato Lions	(A. Nadinson)	450
35	The Wee One Too	(M. Pader)	449
36	Bert Trautmann XI	(S. Brewer)	448
37	Stevens Lions 8	(K. Booth)	448
38	The Likely Lads	(G. Peddar)	448
39	Wolfshearer	(A. Kent)	448
40	Justtime	(J. Hunt)	447
41	County Pine A	(S. Brewer)	447
42	Stevens Lions 7	(N. Webb)	447
43	No Star Today	(B. Gurnan)	447
44	Bal's Team	(C. Nicol)	447
45	Bartie Thistles	(S. Murray)	446
46	Josmond 1960	(P. C. Delworny)	446
47	Twilight United	(A. Boyland)	446
48	Torries All Stars	(J. Henderson)	446
49	Reecy City 2	(J. Shand)	445
50	Aberpurs	(M. E. L. Anonwumba)	445
51	Chip N' Dale XI	(M. J. R. Reader)	445
52	Cameron Athan	(M. D. Patel)	445
53	Nights Flight Foot	(M. P. McDowell)	445
54	The Mind Boogies	(J. Allen)	445
55	Sams All Stars	(E. Sculetta)	445
56	Gatto Nero FC	(J. Barks)	445
57	Quinton Forest	(M. Parish)	445
58	Strangers	(M. J. Bridge)	445
59	Wonder Monster	(M. A. Hewitt)	445
60	Raggle's Reds	(M. T. Stobbsford)	445
61	Paron United	(W. Doyle)	445
62	Good Times United	(T. Burns)	445
63	Evans Men	(M. D. Richardson)	445
64	Burny's Babes	(M. D. Warner)	445
65	Doug's Desperados	(G. Cole)	445
66	Edgy N' Horn		445
67	Sensible City		445

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-5	-4
10102	B Minnie	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schuster	Manchester United	5.00	+10	+22
10202	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-5	-17
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fittie	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D. James	Liverpool	3.50	-3	+32
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	E Little	Leeds United	3.00	+5	-1
10502	M Beany	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10503	P. Suck	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	-1
10601	S. Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10602	S. Hooper	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	R. Barker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+5	+14
10702	E. Thorpe	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	0
10801	A. Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-7
10802	S. Dykes	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J. Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-35
10901	H. Rogers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N. Stallion	Wimbledon	0.75	-5	-6
10903	P. Field	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-36
11001	A. Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	P. Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-5	-24
11101	D. Shaw	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K. Balaev	Chelsea	1.00	+2	+2
11201	S. Stann	Arsenal	5.00	+5	+23
11202	V. Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K. Prassman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-41
11302	C. Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-7
11401	L. Middleton	West Ham United	2.50	+4	-10
11402	L. Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
11501	M. Southall	Everton	2.50	+2	0
11502	A. Kwarlson	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S. Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+5	-23
11602	G. Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	-35
11701	P. Jones	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
11702	P. Jones	Coventry City	2.50	0	0
11801	S. Pearce	Manchester City	2.00	-5	-20
11802	M. Bouch	Aston Villa	1.50	0	0
11803	M. Dokes	Aston Villa	1.50	0	0
11901	A. Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G. Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+5	-15
12001	K. Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-11	-78
12002	A. Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0



Pickering selected his side, the Manchester Marauders, through personal knowledge and targeted players with flair

Choosing your friends

UNLIKE some people, who picked their team around strikers or defenders, I picked the Manchester Marauders from players I know. Straight in the two wingers because I am a full back and wingers are the players I have to deal with first. Then it was Tony Coton because I am a Manchester City fan and he was with City when I picked him.

Another City player I picked is Keith Curle. I thought he might have earned me a few more points than he has because he is quick on the ball and usually gets a couple of penalties during the season, but it has not turned out quite that way this year. I put him alongside David Unsworth at the back. Unsworth is another player who has impressed me when I have played against him, but he does not seem to be having the best of seasons so far.

I tried to pick a team with flair, which is why I went for Anders Linpar. I rate Everton as a team and Linpar particularly. He is not slow, but the thing that sets him apart is his trickery, which makes him so difficult to deal with on the pitch.

I always enjoy playing against the skilful sides because they give you more chance to play yourself. I think the foreign players who have come to the Premiership can do nothing but good for our game. They bring flair to the game.

Ally Pickering, a Coventry City full back, reveals how he made his ITF selections

where we tend to be all bustle and bustle, apart from Liverpool, Manchester United and Newcastle.

For most of the foreign players, it takes a while for them to settle in, but I do not think many have not adapted to the Premiership. That said, I am not so sure about Asprilla; if he is found guilty of the elbowing incident, he will miss a few games before he has even started; but then the Colombians always have that reputation.

I would like to see Newcastle win the

title, and if they do not, they have only themselves to blame. If they do not win this season, they never will. They have an unbelievable team and I think whoever wins the game between Newcastle and Manchester United next Monday will win the Premiership.

However, with all the foreign talent around, I would put Robbie Fowler in my team if he was not so expensive. He is only a young lad, but he is scoring goals and is full of himself when he plays. It is all down to confidence and Liverpool are really buzzing at the moment.

At Coventry, our goal is to stay up this year, which means that we need 18 points from the next 11 games to be safe, but even though we are down near the bottom of the table, the spirit is still there and that makes the difference. Gordon Strachan and Ron Atkinson are always bubbly in training and you need that. There is no good moaning about, and if the management is down it affects the rest of the team.

I think if we stay up we will be a good team next season. There are only a couple of us left from the old side when the boss took over and it takes a while for the new players to settle in.

Hopefully there is still enough time for everything to come together before the end of the season. I am not so sure about the chances for my ITF side, though.

Goalkeeper:	A. Coton	(New Utd)	22.5m
Full back:	P. Atkinson	(Sheff Wed)	22.5m
	D. Ingham	(Man Utd)	24.5m
Centre back:	D. Unsworth	(Everton)	22.5m
	K. Curle	(Man City)	21.5m
Midfielders:	N. Butt	(Liverpool)	22.5m
	J. Redknapp	(Liverpool)	22.5m
	A. Linpar	(Everton)	22.5m
Strikers:	M. L. Taylor	(Southampton)	22m
	M. Stann	(Chelsea)	22m
Manager:	R. Atkinson	(Coventry)	21.5m

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+40	
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0	
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21	
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2	
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+3	+31	
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+5	+23	
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+2	+21	
41502	J Ebroli	Everton	1.50	+2	+28	
41503	A Linger	Everton	2.50	0	+25	
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	0	+21	
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5	
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+1	+33	
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	+3	+5	
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+5	+47	
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2	
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+24	
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3	
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	+33	
41608	M Isalas	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9	
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0	
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+2	+30	
41701	G Fittie	Manchester City	2.50	0	+22	
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3	
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+33	
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	0	+16	
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	0	+35	
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+40	
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+14	
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+28	
41802	T Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+32	
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+39	
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
41808	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+48	
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+26	
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0	
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2	
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	+2	+16	
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	+31	
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2	
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+20	
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+11	
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+14	
42004	R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+14	
42007	W Burns	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	
42008	S Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+19	
42009	S Curcio	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+18	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+1	+75	
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7	
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+21	
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+10	
50105	M Goodwin	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0	
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+2	+43	
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+4	+45	
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+16	
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	+4	+34	
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	+1	+30	
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+1	+30	
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+22	
50305	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7	
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+1	+74	
50402	S Scullymore	Liverpool	7.00	+5	+47	
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19	
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	+1	+44	
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+24	
50503	P Masinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+2	
50506	T Brolin	Leeds United	5.00	0	+16	
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+2	+89	
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+1	+35	
50603	P Kitson	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7	
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0	
50605	D Hackett	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0	
50606	G Watson	Newcastle United	2.00	0	+24	
50701	E Sheeringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+65	
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+3	+48	
50704	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+30	
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	0	+17	
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+5	
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+22	
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+10	
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	0	+36	
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	+5	+19	
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	+2	+15	
50904	G Billett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	+1	+9	
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+29	
50907	J Ewell	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+2	
51001	M L Tassier	Southampton	8.00	+1	+26	
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+3	+46	
51003	C Maskell	Southampton	2.00	0	+24	
51004	C Maskell	Southampton	0.75	0	0	
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	0	+22	
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6	
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+29	
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+17	
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	+40	
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+1	+37	
51203	J Hargrove	Arsenal	4.00	+2	+11	
51204	C Kwong	Arsenal	1.50	0	0	
51205	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4	
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	+1	+38	
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27	
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+23	
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3	
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+32	
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+7	
51401	T Cottle	West Ham United	4.50	+4	+40	
51402	M Koegers	West Ham United	2.00	0	+3	
51404	Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	+2	+35	
51405	Dani	West Ham United	2.50	0	+4	
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+3	+18	
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	+1	+24	
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	0	+29	
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	+2	+46	
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	+1	+52	
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	0	+21	
51603	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3	
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+28	
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+3	+42	
51702	N Quilan	Manchester City	4.00	+5	+34	
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50	0	+12	
51706	R Ekelund	Manchester City	2.50	0	+1	
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+43	
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	2.00	+3	+56	
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+24	
51901	J Florio	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+28	
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+6	
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5	
51904	N Barnby	Middlesbrough	4.00	+1	+38	
52001	J McGinley	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+30	
52003	M Paatelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+7	
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	+1	+24	
52005	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+8	

20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-2	+20
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-2	+30
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	+8	+31
20202	G Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0	+6
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	+8	+24
20301	S Platt	Nottingham Forest	4.50	-2	+18
20302	D Little	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-2	+18
20303	A Hasland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-12
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	-1	+37
20402	S Bjornnebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+28
20501	T Dorogi	Leeds United	3.50	+3	+15
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+18
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0	-4
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+13
20602	M Hottiger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+25
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+17
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+6
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+4	+37
20704	D Kerlake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+21
20801	D Barsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	-9
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-5
20803	N Zallo	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-3	-3
20804	T Chait	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
20901	G Williams	Wimbledon	2.50	0	0
20902	G Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.50	-8	-8
20903	C Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-3	-12
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	-2	+13
21002	F Benall	Southampton	1.00	0	+4
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	-2	+6
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	+3	+14
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	+3	+15
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	+3	+9
21106	D Petruscu	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+22
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+38
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+35
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	+4	+4
21302	J Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-7
21303	P Altherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-12
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-3
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	+3	+13
21402	T Brockner	West Ham United	3.00	0	-12
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	-4	+8
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	+4	+16
21501	A Abbott	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barnett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+11
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0	-2
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+3
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	+4	+1
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-23
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21706	M Frontczek	Manchester City	1.50	0	-6
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	-2	+43
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50	-2	+9
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+48
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-7
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	+4	+21
21903	C Miles	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+17
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	+4	-2
22001	G Bergeson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-13
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	-5	-14
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-5	-22
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-8
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1

NEWS

Mayhew aims to reassure Unionists

The Government acted to head off a Commons defeat on the Scott report last night by offering key assurances to the nine Ulster Unionists about the elections to be held in Northern Ireland ahead of all-party talks.

The Northern Ireland Secretary was desperately trying to allay official Unionist fears that the Government had done a secret deal with the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists. Page 1

Murder suspects tricks woman friend

The murder suspect Victor Farrant has been hiding with a woman friend in Brussels, detectives said. The woman had no idea he was on the run, they added. Mr Farrant, 46, is wanted for the murder of Glenda Hoskins, 45, who was found dead at her home near Portsmouth on February 8. Page 1

Ninth plane lost

The toll of air crashes suffered by the RAF and Royal Navy this year rose to nine in less than seven weeks after a Tornado GR1 went down in Germany. Page 1

Cruise ship crippled

A tug was struggling through squalls in the South China Sea to reach a crippled Cunard cruise liner with 500 passengers, including 60 Britons, on board. Page 1

Ceasefire demand

The Government demanded an immediate and permanent end to the terrorist campaign at its first face-to-face meeting with Sinn Féin since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. Page 2

Oil spill disaster

The Sea Empress oil spill is the biggest environmental disaster since the Torrey Canyon in 1967, experts said. About 20,000 birds have been affected. Page 3

Guard for Princess

The Princess of Wales bowed to pressure from Buckingham Palace and agreed to a 24-hour armed guard for the first time since she announced her withdrawal from public life. Page 4

Headmistress sacked

A headmistress who improved results and morale at her secondary school was arrested in her night-dress and sacked after it was discovered she had lied on her application form. Page 5

Village newcomers not welcome

The peace and harmony of the village of Swallowfield in Berkshire is threatened by a proposal to form a club restricted to those who have lived there for at least 25 years. The idea of a "25 club" was put forward by a parish councillor who said there were fears that the running of the village could be "hijacked by a few articulate outsiders". Page 5

Al Fayed's rebuffed

A High Court judge rejected a call by the Al Fayed brothers for a judicial review of the decision to reject their applications for British citizenship. Page 6

Drawing out talent

The winner of the first Times Young Cartoonist of the Year award is young enough to have won the prize in the junior section. Page 6

US angers Bonn

Germany is becoming irritated by American criticism of Europe's handling of the Bosnian crisis and Bonn's fledgling attempts to forge a European defence identity. Page 9

Film widow to sue

The widow of the French filmmaker Henri-Georges Clouzot is to sue over an American version of her husband's 1955 classic *Les Diaboliques*. Page 9

Jerusalem deaths

Two more people died in Jerusalem — victims of the nervous paranoia gripping Israel — just as some of the 25 Jewish victims of Sunday's suicide bombings were being buried. Page 10

Cuba reprisals

President Clinton met his national security and foreign policy advisers to consider his options for responding to the shooting down of two unarmed Cessnas by Cuban MiGs. Page 11



Take That fans waiting in vain at the High Court for Robbie Williams, who failed to appear after an out-of-court settlement. Page 4

BUSINESS

Abbey: Abbey National is searching for a life insurance acquisition in an effort to increase its share of the growing market. Page 25

Hongkong: HSBC Holdings, parent company of Midland Bank and of James Capel, the stockbroker, reported a 16 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3,672 billion last year. Page 27

Mark One: Philip Green, the retailer, has emerged as the victor in a close fought battle for control of Mark One. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 34.8 points to close at 3779.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 84.2 after a fall from \$1.5385 to \$1.5375 but a rise from DM2.2597 to DM2.2617. Page 28

SPORT

Crickets: Michael Atherton, who has been under attack from many quarters, said he would be "disappointed but not surprised" if failure in the World Cup cost him the England captaincy. Page 48

Football: Faustino Asprilla of Newcastle United and Keith Curle of Manchester City have been charged with misconduct after incidents during the Premiership match last Saturday. Page 48

Rugby union: Bath and Leicester were kept apart in the draw for the Pilkington Cup semi-finals. Bath meet Gloucester and Leicester play London Irish. Page 46

Athletics: Vincent Rousseau, the only runner to have broken 2hr 8min twice, will run in the London Marathon on April 21. Page 48

Treasures from Italy: While the Doria Pamphili Gallery in Rome is closed for renovation, the National Gallery in London has been loaned 12 sumptuous Old Masters that have never left Italy before. Page 40

Sensible choice: *Sense and Sensibility* won the Golden Bear for best movie at this year's Berlin Film Festival, while Sean Penn picked up the best actor award for *Dead Man Walking*. Page 41

Tenor to fore: The most impressive aspect of English National Opera's Tosca, says John Higgins, is the Cavaradossi sung by David Rendall. Page 41

His master's voice: Peter Greenwell, for many years accompanist to Noël Coward, is to star in a stage tribute to him. Page 42

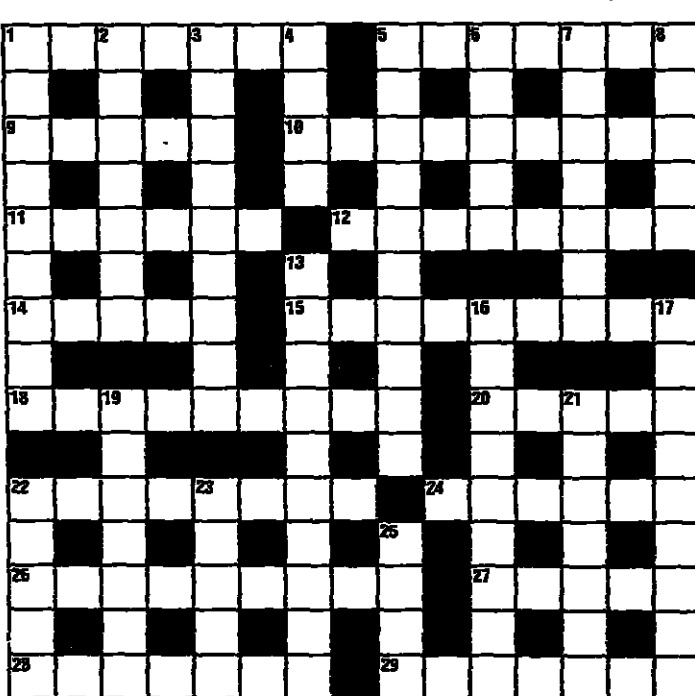
IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
The £2 billion battle to wire up the British Army to digital technology. Plus, win a £3,000 Apricot multimedia PC

■ **GRAND SLAM**
Win two tickets for the Scotland v England grand slam rugby match



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,101



- ACROSS**
- Spill, for example, from boat (7).
 - Sort of chairs for play, or other theatrical event (7).
 - A friend from the country (5).
 - Pocket watch required for collector of 'silverware' (13-6).
 - Is interrupting to halt combat (6).
 - Angry churchman without house (8).
 - Extract from healthy medicinal herb (5).
 - Soldiers deal with forward communication (9).
 - Disco's opening tune with beat excited new socialite (9).
 - Distance to go round island in European country (5).
 - Discontinue publicity introducing ring villain (8).
 - Youngster first to succeed as painter (6).
- DOWN**
- Ture using spike — tore off a strip (9).
 - Yield, for example, in dispute (7).
 - Tempestuous rains penetrating temporary accommodation for fugitive (9).
 - Carried away in river to the point (4).
 - Union negotiator in correspondence with manufacturer (10).
 - Head appearing as row is heard (5).
 - See little home above lake (7).
 - Cyril's composed contribution to Sat (5).
 - Striking result when new light-weight is caught by jab (10).
 - Unload from bumpy bus ride in extreme of dejection (9).
 - Authorises coercive measures (9).
 - Left in exit with punishment (4-3).
 - A considerable trouble for an old maid (7).
 - Finished last of the spread (5).
 - Measure of surveyors? (5).
 - Club used in the evening (4).

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, see 0231 500 followed by the appropriate code.

London 0231 500
North 0231 501
East of England 0231 502
West of England 0231 503
South 0231 504
Wales 0231 505
Scotland 0231 506
NI 0231 507
Channel Islands 0231 508
Jersey 0231 509
Guernsey 0231 510
Manx 0231 511
Shetland 0231 512
Orkney 0231 513
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Malinbeg 0231 515
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Blackburn 0231 525
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